

Florida

Deep South White-Tails

The Golden Shiner

*Fishing • Hunting
• Conservation •
Outdoor Recreation*

WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER 1967

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS

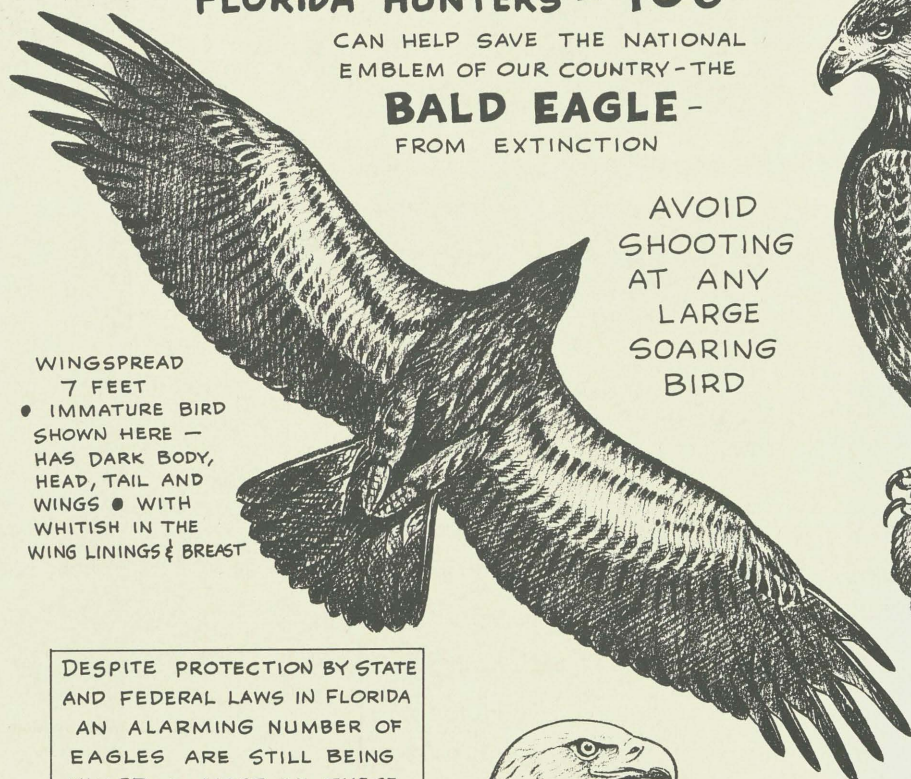


Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

FLORIDA HUNTERS - YOU

CAN HELP SAVE THE NATIONAL
EMBLEM OF OUR COUNTRY - THE

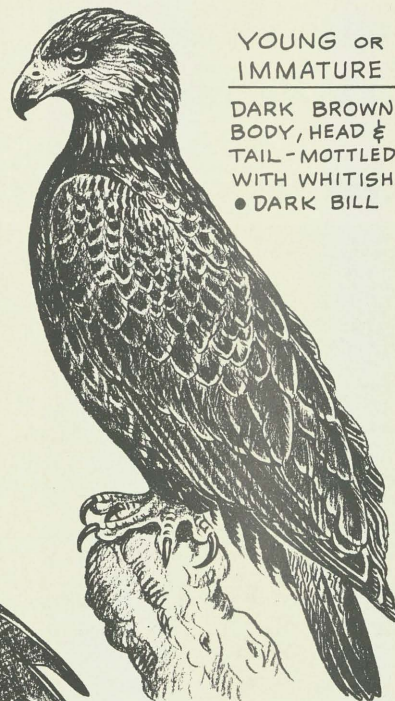
BALD EAGLE - FROM EXTINCTION



WINGSPREAD
7 FEET

• IMMATURE BIRD
SHOWN HERE -
HAS DARK BODY,
HEAD, TAIL AND
WINGS • WITH
WHITISH IN THE
WING LININGS & BREAST

AVOID
SHOOTING
AT ANY
LARGE
SOARING
BIRD



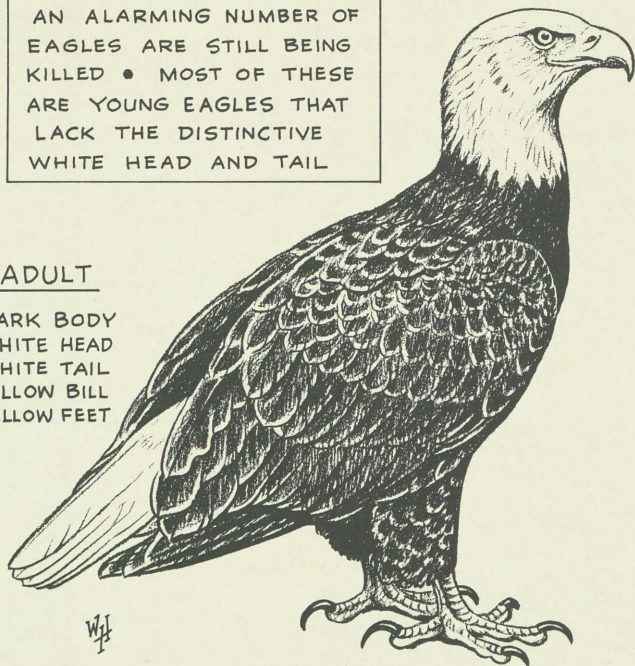
YOUNG OR
IMMATURE

DARK BROWN
BODY, HEAD &
TAIL - MOTTLED
WITH WHITISH
• DARK BILL

DESPITE PROTECTION BY STATE
AND FEDERAL LAWS IN FLORIDA
AN ALARMING NUMBER OF
EAGLES ARE STILL BEING
KILLED • MOST OF THESE
ARE YOUNG EAGLES THAT
LACK THE DISTINCTIVE
WHITE HEAD AND TAIL

ADULT

DARK BODY
WHITE HEAD
WHITE TAIL
YELLOW BILL
YELLOW FEET



YOUNG BIRDS DO
NOT DEVELOP A
WHITE HEAD AND
WHITE TAIL UNTIL
FOUR YEARS OLD

FLORIDA AND ALASKA ARE THE
ONLY STATES PRODUCING YOUNG
EAGLES IN EVEN FAIR NUMBERS
• LET'S KEEP THE EAGLE A PART
OF FLORIDA'S LIVING LANDSCAPE
• HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO -
REPEAT - DO NOT SHOOT AT LARGE
SOARING BIRDS AND URGE OTHERS
NOT TO • HELP PRESERVE EAGLE
NESTING SITES • CIVIC CLUBS,
SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS, SCHOOL GROUPS,
CITIZENS OF FLORIDA - JOIN THE
EAGLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
• WRITE TO - BALD EAGLE CLUB
FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. DRAWER 7
MAITLAND, FLORIDA 32751

- FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

Florida WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER 1967

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★

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The Cover

A worthy challenger afield for the Florida "bigger game" hunter, the White-tailed Deer has reached a population of boastful numbers—more than in the days of early settlers. See page 18.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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Facts About Guns

SWITZERLAND, a nation best known for its policy of armed neutrality, stands as one of the most effective rebuttals to the fallacy that guns cause crime.

While American lawmakers continue to be bombarded with demands for restrictive firearms legislation by anti-gun fanatics who insist their sole objective is to reduce the nation's crime rate, and some Senators stomp for the elimination of the National Rifle Matches, it is interesting to note how the Swiss are dealing with such weighty problems.

Every able-bodied Swiss male, 20 to 50 years of age, is required to keep a military firearm and ammunition at home, ready for instant use. There are about 650,000 submachine guns, automatic and semi-automatic rifles, carbines and pistols in the private homes and chalets of this lovely country.

Shooting, rather than being looked upon as a dangerous or useless activity, has become a major sport as well as a military obligation. Almost every village has a firing range and Swiss marksmen place highly in international competition.

The men of Switzerland, after initial training, are members of the first-line military force until age 32, and in the ready reserve until they reach 50. They then retain their individual weapons. Surplus military rifles are sold freely without a permit.

With a rifle or submachine gun behind the door of nearly every Swiss home, what of the nation's crime rate? It's one of the lowest in the world.

Chances are the anti-gun element won't bother explaining what amounts to a paradox from their point of view, but our lawmakers should at least study it. The answer is simple. Criminals, not guns, cause crime.

Wildlife Management Area regulations are available at County Judges' offices, and at Commission region offices on page 3.

1967 - 1968

Hunting Season

NORTHWEST REGION

DEER & BEAR: November 18 through January 14, hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season, November 18 through January 14, hunting permitted every day. Spring Season, March 23 through April 7.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 18 through March 3, hunting permitted every day.

CENTRAL REGION

DEER & BEAR: November 11 through January 1, hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season, November 11 through January 1. Spring Season, from March 9 through March 24, in that portion of the Region south of State Road 50; from March 23 through April 7, in that portion north of State Road 50. Hunting permitted every day.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25; hunting permitted every day.



Florida's Five
Regions for
Fresh Water Fishing,
Hunting and Trapping

Shooting Hours — Resident Game

From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset; except Spring Turkey Season when shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise until 12-noon, only.

The color illustrated 1967-1968 Summary of Fresh Water Fishing and Hunting regulations are now available at County Judge offices, and the Commission offices listed on page 3. The 24-page summary contains general hunting and fishing regulations and information, bag limits, license fees, region map and hunting dates, plus colorful illustrations of Florida's native game animals, birds and fish.

General Summary

Native Game

NORTHEAST REGION

DEER & BEAR: November 11 through November 19 only, in Gilchrist County and that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339. November 11 through January 1, in all other counties; hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: No open season in Madison and Suwannee counties, or in that portion of Columbia County south of State Road 240 and west of State Road 47. Alachua County closed except during Spring Season. Fall Season from November 11 through January 1. Spring Season from March 23 through April 7. Hunting permitted every day.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25; hunting permitted every day.

WILD HOG: In that portion of Levy County between State Roads 337 and 339, November 11 through November 19, only. Alachua County and the remaining portion of Levy County, November 11 through January 1. Hunting permitted every day.

SOUTH REGION

DEER & BEAR: November 11 through November 19 in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties. November 11 through January 1, in all other counties. Hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season from November 11 through January 1; hunting permitted every day. Spring Season, March 9 through March 24, south of State Road 50; March 23 through April 7, in Hernando County north of State Road 50.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25; hunting permitted every day.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS: The use of rifles is prohibited in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties except .22 rimfire rifles may be used other than for taking of deer and bear. The use of dogs in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties shall be limited to bird dogs, retrievers and slow trail hounds. The use of running hounds or any other dog that can reasonably be considered a dog usable for running deer is specifically prohibited.

EVERGLADES REGION

DEER & BEAR: No open season on the Florida Keys of Monroe County. From November 11 through January 1, all other counties. Hunting permitted every day.

TURKEY: Fall Season, from November 11 through January 21. Spring Season from March 9 through March 24. Hunting permitted every day.

QUAIL & SQUIRREL: November 11 through February 25, hunting permitted every day.

WILD HOG: Palm Beach County, from November 11 through January 1, hunting permitted every day.

Bag Limits (For deer and turkey sex requirements, see General Regulations Summary)

	Daily Bag	Season Bag	Possession Limit
White-tailed Deer	2	3	3
Turkey — Fall	2	3	3
Spring	1	2	2
Squirrel, Grey	10		20
Squirrel, Fox	2		4
Quail	12		24
Bear	1	1	1
Wild Hog	1	2	2

Federal migratory bird hunting dates and regulations, for Marsh Hens (rails and gallinules), Mourning Dove, Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coot), Snipe and Woodcock, set by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, appear in a separate seasonal summary.

Rivers and Streams

THE NEWEST VOLUME in a series, "Our Living World of Nature," published by McGraw-Hill Book Company (New York) is **THE LIFE OF RIVERS AND STREAMS**, seventh of the lavishly illustrated books describing various communities of living things. It introduces the reader to the tremendous variety of plants and animals that live in the dynamic environment of flowing water.

The author, Robert L. Usinger, Professor of Entomology at the University of California, describes the fascinating creatures that inhabit torrents and waterfalls, rapids and placid backwaters, mighty rivers and tiny brooks, hot springs and frigid glacial streams. All the colorful denizens of America's rivers are discussed—fish and insect, bird and mammal, predator and prey.

Professor Usinger considers rivers and streams in relation to the growth and prosperity of human populations and examines the terrible impact of pollution in detail, stressing methods by which it can be corrected in the future so that rivers may continue to thrive with life.

This informative volume (\$4.95) contains 119 natural color photographs, 25 duotone and black and white pictures and over 70 maps, diagrams and drawings. And in addition to a complete index and glossary there are appendices describing rivers in our National Parks and a guide for the identification of aquatic insects.

THE LIFE OF RIVERS AND STREAMS was produced jointly with the publishers of The World Book Encyclopedia and developed with the cooperation of the United States Department of the Interior.

MOVING?

If you are planning to move, please send notification four weeks before changing address. Send your address label from a current issue, plus your NEW address. This will ensure continued subscription service.

Game Management Notes

HOGS HAVE BEEN declared legal game and are open to hunting this season *only* on 16 wildlife management areas and in *only* three entire Florida counties: Palm Beach, Alachua and Levy. Elsewhere the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has no jurisdiction over free-ranging hogs. The taking of privately-owned porkers is a serious offense. Be certain of the status of hogs in the county or management area in which you are hunting. It is the hunter's responsibility to do so. Remember: "Not all that grunts is legal game!"

ONE HUNDRED jungle fowl, an exotic game bird from Southeast Asia, were recently released in the Everglades Region by the Commission. The bantam-sized birds, from which domestic chickens descended, are being experimentally introduced in Florida in hopes they will provide a new game species in future years. They are currently closed to hunting.

The Commission's jungle fowl are produced in Northwest Florida, by a game bird breeder, from wild stock.

DID YOU EVER wonder what Game Management Division personnel do between seasons? Here is a passage from a report describing activities during one month in preparation for the hunting season on wildlife management areas . . . all intended to enhance the game supply and accommodate the hunter: ". . . The hunt headquarters at Scanlon on the Aucilla Area was torn down and will be replaced; a portion of the floor of the equipment shed on the Gulf Hammock Area was poured with concrete; the hunt headquarters on the Polera Still Hunt Area of Tomoka was moved to the Farnton Area; a hunt headquarters site was selected for the new Nassau Area; and work on the check stations at Terrytown, Andytown and L-67 of the Everglades Area was accomplished.

"Buildings were checked and repaired where necessary on the Webb, Guano, Gulf Hammock and Tomoka Areas. Fences were checked, removed and replaced where needed on the Aucilla, Gulf Hammock, Tomoka, Farnton and Lake Butler Areas and hog proof fences were erected on the Gulf Hammock and Camp Blanding Areas to prevent hog damage to food plots and corn fields.

"Work proceeded on the Webb Area of fencing food plots and the spoil from the slough ponds. Roads were cleared of debris and maintained on the Croom, Gulf Hammock and Guano Areas; new roads were constructed and old ones reworked by Georgia-Pacific on the Gulf Hammock Area; Charlotte County's Department of Roads and Bridges rebuilt one mile of Tucker's Grade on the Webb

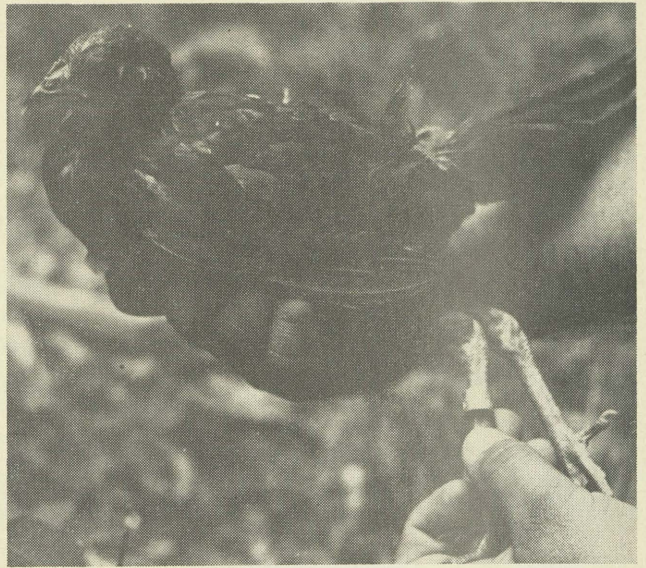


Photo By Jim Brantly

The jungle fowl—a game bird of Asian origin—has been introduced in several carefully chosen spots around the state. Successful reproduction and full protection may place them on the hunter's game bird list . . . some day.

Area; and a washout in the road to the dam on the Guano Area was repaired.

"Boundary posted signs were checked and old ones removed and replaced where necessary on the Croom, Gulf Hammock, Tomoka, Farnton, Citrus, Lochloosa, Lake Butler and Camp Blanding Areas; the entire boundary of the new Fort McCoy Area was posted and six new entrance signs were constructed; five hundred metal 'posted' signs were placed on the Nassau Area boundary and one hundred 'still hunt' signs were used. Bridges were checked on the Gulf Hammock Area; fill dirt was replaced around a bridge on the Apalachee Area; and one bridge was replaced and four repaired on the Farnton Area.

"Food plots were planted to chufas, and combine peas were fertilized on the Aucilla, Telogia and Gulf Hammock Areas; twenty-five acres were planted in crops for turkey, deer and doves on the Aucilla Area; and dove fields were planted on the Point Washington and Apalachee Areas. Quail food strips were disced, planted and fertilized on the Camp Blanding Area . . .

"A cattle gap on Williams Grade of the Gulf Hammock Area was repaired and old gates moved to new locations; gates to food plots were replaced and repaired on the Camp Blanding Area. Landowners graded and reworked twenty miles of firebreaks on the Farnton Area and five miles of firebreaks were seeded with grass seed to prevent washouts. Two hundred acres were control burned on the Lake Butler Area and beaver dams were removed from drainage ditches on the Apalachee Area . . ."

The report went on and on . . . Whew! ●

Finding Fish

FISHING

The identification of sought-after fish by watching water surface swirls and splashes may work—after viewing repeat actions



By CHARLES WATERMAN

POLLUTION, LIKE A LOT of other things in conservation, is generally over-simplified in fishing discussions.

Between raw sewage and a rippling virgin creek there are many degrees of impurity. Least understood of all is the fact that some water which is quite fit for human consumption may be poisonous to certain kinds of fish.

This adds up to questions in sewage treatment. Sewage that may be treated to make downstream water suitable for a city's supply may still be rough on the gamefish population. Then, certain water that won't damage fish by direct contact and usage may be unsuitable for the microscopic organisms at the other end of the fish's food chain. Without these organisms the fish's primary foods will not be produced and you have a fish shortage in "pure" water.

Game fish are generally the first to suffer from pollution because they get their reputation by chasing and striking living things and imitations of living things. Hence few game fish perform as scavengers as do catfish and mudfish. A bottom grubber or a scavenger will thrive in waters that would cause a black bass to turn up his fins.

In my youth I was told that water purifies itself after a short trip in the sunshine but that's just superstition. It's true running water is more likely to be clean than stagnant or stationary water but it isn't necessarily pure.

Conservationists, especially fishermen, now preach constantly for pure water and, of course, no one is against it but the colossal costs of sewage treatment dampen the enthusiasm of many a city father. I know a real conservationist who runs a fishing camp on the banks of a river which receives raw sewage from his camp as well as from several others. Until recently it was figured the sewage wasn't sufficient to really hurt fishing but now there are enough people moving in to make it a pretty tough question.

Now my friend is faced with the staggering costs

of sewage treatment which may put him out of business. Some cities and small towns are in the same boat.

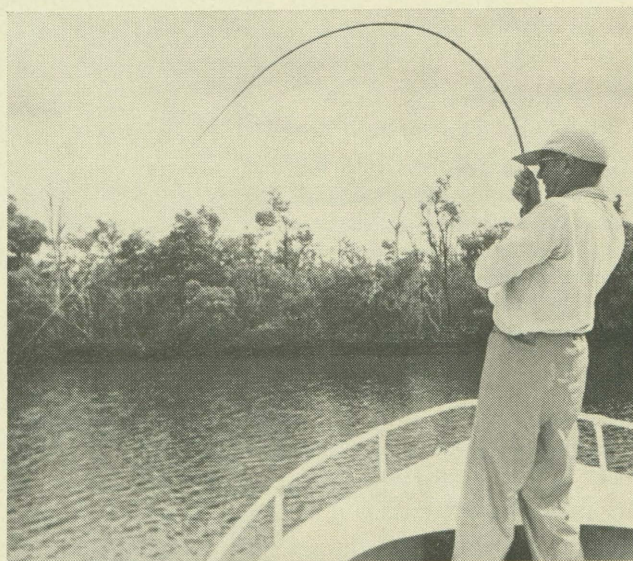
Until recent years, any marine toilet that would discharge into open water was considered satisfactory but that business is coming to a very sudden halt. Contemplate the effect of a few hundred marine toilets on a cozy cove of a picturesque lake.

Like other conservation problems, pollution of fishing waters is not a simple obstacle. Study before you stampe.

EXPERIENCED fishermen work a heavy fish by "pumping," that is, they raise the rod tip without cranking on the reel handle and then take up the line thus gained by lowering the tip and releasing tension momentarily.

Winching in fish by simply holding the rod stationary and cranking steadily is bad business for three reasons. First, it makes the angler less sensitive to the actions of the fish and he is more likely to jerk free; secondly it spools the line harder on the reel, possibly forcing retrieved line down through other layers to where it won't come off smoothly; thirdly, in the case of many kinds of line it can cause a broken reel spool as tensioned line contracts and then expands in bulk when relaxed.

Some fishermen don't savvy the contraction-
(Continued on next page)



Heavy fish should be played with a pumping action rather than "winched" in. This angler pulls the fish toward him with arms and rod, and then takes up what he's gained by lowering the rod tip—and cranking "slack line" quickly.

(Continued from preceding page)

expansion process and think the only danger to a reel spool is tight packing as the line goes on.

IDENTIFICATION OF FISH splashes, burbles, glurps, swirls and even jumps can be confusing, even on your home waters.

On the flats I am constantly taking mullet swirls for feeding salt water trout although I can generally tell the difference after a few repeat performances.

When I first came to Florida I didn't know what the jumping river mullet were and, at a distance, figured they were black bass going through some sort of antic I hadn't witnessed before. That's a common mistake of newcomers to Florida fishing and, unless they're jumping very regularly, it may take a long time to get a really good look at one in the air.

At certain times of the year in some localities carp will act very much like striking black bass and will sometimes do very fancy jumping. In North Carolina last year I made a long trip to what I thought was a school of white bass only to find it was a bunch of carp.

Spawning gar can sometimes produce terrific splashings.

The difference between schooling ladyfish and small jack crevalle is hard to explain although the jacks generally make more popping sounds. When the fish get to weigh a pound or more the jacks are more easily distinguished.

Salt water catfish and very small tarpon are easily confused when they are showing their fins during feeding operations.

The wakes made by near-surface tarpon and snook are generally separated by the fact the snook moves more steadily with fewer deviations from course—but not always.

On shallow Keys flats I often confuse channel

bass wakes with those of bonefish. At great distance, shark fins can be mistaken for bonefish tails but there's no excuse for making the error when you're within casting distance. Permit generally show their distinctive sickle fins.

Slow-moving and compact schools of very small fish sometimes make a disturbance much like a snooping bonefish or channel bass. I have known guides who were very positive in such identifications and were seldom or never caught in a mistake.

I went bonefishing with one who took off his polarized glasses when he wanted to inspect wakes at a distance. It would be too far away for him to see under the surface and he actually preferred to watch added top water reflections for identification purposes.

It doesn't take long to do pretty well on identification of shallow flats fish as long as they are moving briskly but you have to know a lot about fish anatomy to spot the different species when they are lying still or moving very slightly. As in deer hunting in brush you aren't looking for the whole subject—just for an identifiable part.

The distortions caused by viewing fish through water can lead to ridiculous assumptions of size. A bonefish in very shallow water, for example, may look tiny at a distance and if his fin or tail sticks out it appears so huge that it is suspected of belonging to someone else. One of the biggest bones I ever caught looked like a juvenile until I had him hooked.

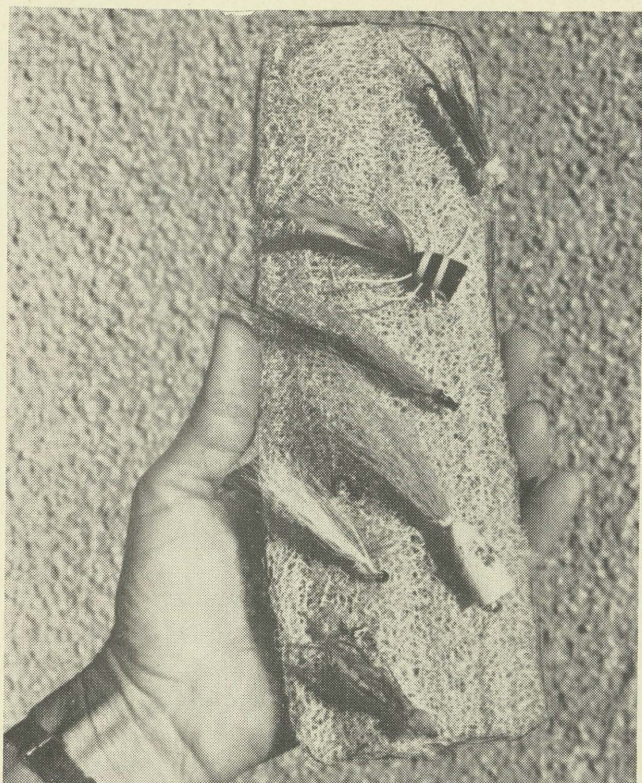
Then, as you get closer to the fish and look down on him your perspective changes and I frequently overestimate his size.

All of this is tied up with optics and light refraction and just a little out of my field.

WHILE WE'RE SLOSHING around in the Keys, small

In inches of water fishermen look for bonefish, or channel bass, on the Florida Keys. Identification of fish in such places is more a matter of perception and knowing what to look for rather than need of so-called exceptional eyesight.





The "loofa"—actually a vegetable material—doubles as an excellent (and safe) hook holder, although it was originally intended for in-the-shower massages.

shark identification may get confusing. There are many kinds with as many kinds of disposition, ranging from real loafing deadheads to rippers who will fight you for your fish and might even adopt a winner-take-all philosophy.

There is a small blacktip shark that moves fast and has cut off many a fish for me. I've hooked some of them that were reel-screechers. There are some more sedentary species of similar appearance who seem to take little interest in a hooked fish and can be landed like rubber boots. Almost any of them will take a lure occasionally.

I've had little blacktips push an oar blade around just for the heck of it.

A FISHING FRIEND sent me something real nice in the mail and, although grateful, I couldn't figure what it was for a while. He said it was a hook holder but it didn't say it was a hook holder. It said (on the plastic package) that it was a Spa Loofa and went on to explain it was genuine loofa, evidently not to be confused with the phony ersatz loofa which has been kicking around lately. (I'm a little out of touch with the loofa trade.)

It's really an oblong piece of some sort of fibrous material that was originally made up for use in skin conditioning during a shower bath, having a pleasingly rough surface that still wouldn't take the hide off under sensible use.

My friend uses it as a hook holder and it certainly

works. You can simply stick the barbs into the "loofa" and handle the whole works without danger of getting stuck or losing bait hooks, flies, or single-hooked lures. It could be dropped into a tackle box or simply left loose in a boat.

The package says it's made up by Schroeder & Tremayne, Inc., of New York and St. Louis. I suppose you'd be most likely to find it in a drug store or at a notions counter.

P.S.: I looked "loofa" up in the dictionary and it's a fibrous vegetable material.

LATELY THERE HAVE been several articles about golf course fishing, not surprising when you note that most of the ponds and creeks are pretty well kept, and often stocked with bass and panfish. Fishing rods on golf carts are not much of a curiosity any more.

WITH MOST KINDS OF casting tackle the first six feet of line gets most of the wear. With a spinning or plugging outfit the first few inches are forcefully yanked through the tip guide with every cast, and after the cast is under way the other line follows at a more sedate speed. Obstacles in the water are likely to do their sawing on the first few feet of line.

You can nearly double the usefulness of most spinning and casting lines by reversing them at intervals. The only catch is that when you reverse a line the weakest part is likely to be that next to the reel spool and might give way for a long running fish.

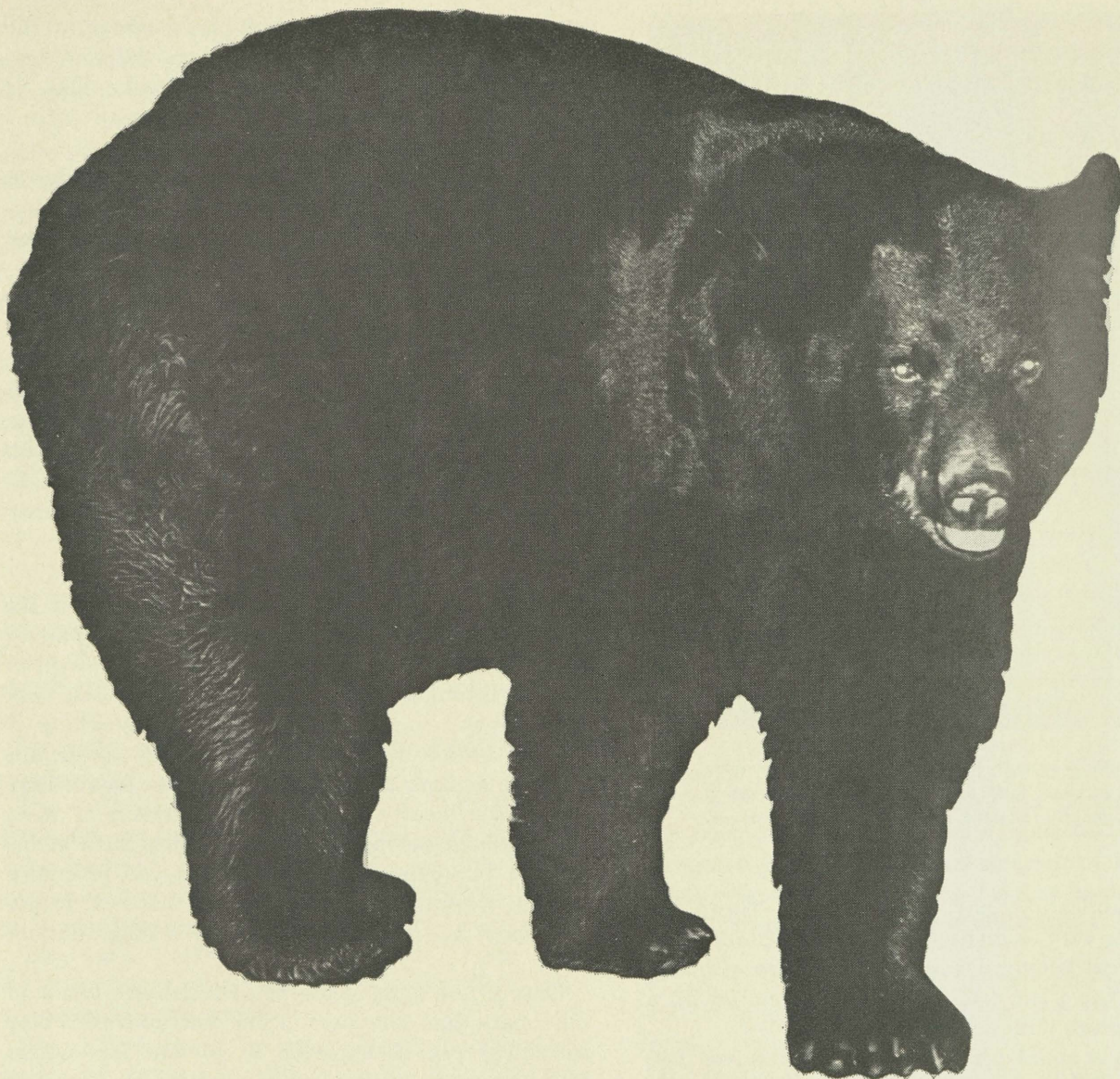
Only a few light tackle Florida fish are likely to take more than 100 yards of line, and no fresh water specimens can be expected to go that far—unless you happen to hook a giant gar bent on changing residence.

FREE FISH that follow hooked fish are generally easy targets. Almost invariably their interest is appetite rather than sympathy for the snagged compatriot. They see their friend grab something that looked good to him and then go into rather unusual maneuvers after he's hooked.

Possibly figuring he's latched on to some aquatic version of LSD, the other fish give chase. Many salt water fish are easy to catch when another fish is on a hook, and amberjack and dolphin are especially reliable targets. Doubles on multi-hooked plugs generally occur when one fish tries to take the lure away from another that's already caught.

Black bass are frequently landed this way and schooling bass are especially vulnerable.

ONE OF THE CURRENT fishing-boating trends is toward canoes. I don't have any statistics but in recent cross-country trips I saw many times the cartopped canoes I sighted a few years back—most of them aluminum. ●



black bear hunting luck belongs to . . .

The Fortunate Few

IN THE LIGHT OF FULL dawn the bear tracks in the soft swamp loam were unmistakably identifiable and fresh. There was no doubt that the fleeing animal was leaving the swamp and was headed in the direction of one of the area's boundary roads, the trailing dog pack in determined pursuit.

The 17 hunters in the party seeking the Florida bruin made a quick, majority decision; they would race around the chase and wait for its approach while spread out in crescent formation.

All piled into Jeeps and assorted vehicles and literally burned rubber to reach locality of anticipated interception. At destination, one after another of the conveyances discharged eager, well-armed hunters; the planned crescent was quickly formed.

The only flaw was that the approaching quarry somehow scented or spotted one or more of the spaced, waiting hunters and turned back into the swamp, without anyone getting a shot. Men, dogs and bear never met in joint assembly. The mistake was in not taking huge circle formation instead of the chosen crescent.

Bear hunting is like that—especially Florida bear hunting. Only those parties blessed with true hunting luck bag a bear. Even so, they all enjoy trying.

Some bear hunting parties make the mistake of quitting too early in the day. They are apt to illogically contend that unproductive effort since dawn, combined with fatigue and midday heat, justify giving up altogether. Truth is, one of the

best hunting periods of the day is that from 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon until legal hour closing! When to quit should be determined by experienced guide.

Where dogs are used—and dogs are regarded as being very necessary for Florida black bear hunting in Florida swamp country—a bear may be jumped and trailed at any hour of the day, depending on fortunate finding of fresh spoor.

A bear at standstill appears to be a slow and clumsy animal. Not so when in high gear—then, he can easily out-run a man and can tire trailing dogs with his stamina. It is not uncommon for a bear fleeing determined pursuit to race ahead of dogs and hunters all day—and possibly all the next day! One never knows what a jumped bear will do. They are highly individualistic.

The Florida black bear does not hibernate like his northern state cousins. Omnivorous, he also has a constant, almost insatiable appetite for a wide variety of foods.

Generally, however, most wild bears will settle for meals of turtle eggs, wild grapes and berries, persimmons, cabbage palm berries, wild honey, acorns—a variety that even includes grubs and termites, found by upturning decaying logs.

From men or dog pack, a Florida bear will usually put all possible distance. Attacks on humans by adult bears, unless provoked by wounding, or developing danger to young cubs, are not likely to happen. (Under Florida law, humans must leave bear cubs strictly alone; there is no open season on them at any time. Only adult bears may be taken.)

the general clumsy and slow appearance
of black bear is misleading—they
can easily outrun the hunter and stay
far ahead of trailing hounds

By EDMUND McLAURIN

The hunting joy—and luck—of bagging an often hard-to-find black bear can be claimed by only a few during each season.

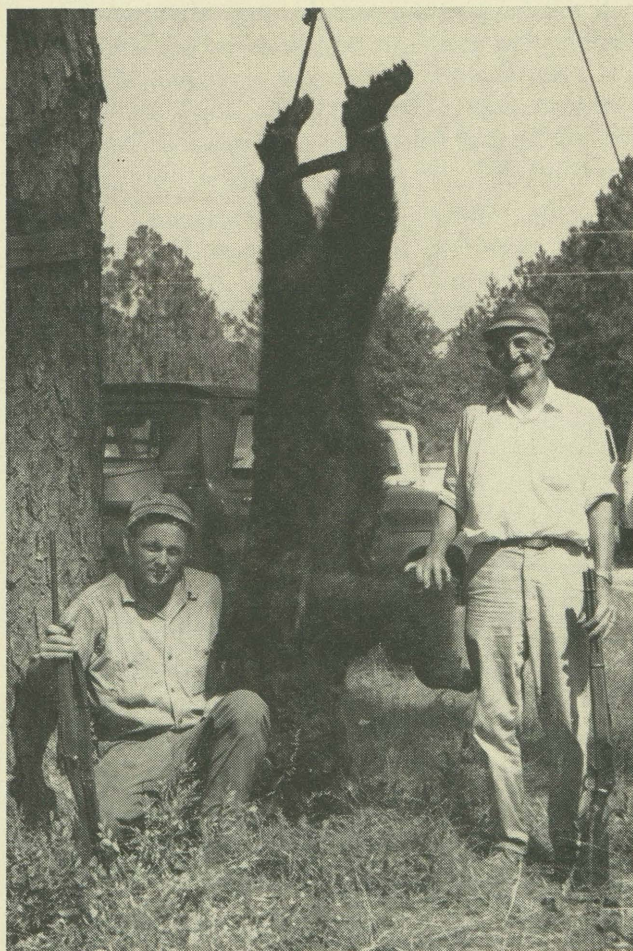
But as a close-quarter antagonist, adult black bear can be tough. One swipe of a paw can instantly crush or mortally wound a challenging dog that makes the mistake of getting too close, while at the same time being slow of reflex. When shot, other than at almost point-blank range, most die hard. For a male, an average of 300 pounds of bear muscle and aroused fury must be stilled.

Rifle calibers like the .308 Winchester, .30-06 Springfield, .35 Remington, .270 Winchester, .280 Remington, 7mm Mauser, .30-40 Krag and .350 Magnum are generally needed to do a sure killing job.

The .35 Remington caliber, used with 200 grain round, soft-nose bullet, is especially reliable for brush shooting or for an occasional shot no further away than 150 yards. Marlin makes the popular Model 336 Carbine in .35 Remington caliber and Remington also markets the equally popular Model 760 slide-action big game rifle in that caliber. Fitted with low-power scope sight, either rifle model makes a dandy weapon for bear and other Florida big game.

Whatever caliber preference, the bullet should be of a design that will deliver terrific wallop on impact, with full expansion and energy effect
(Continued on next page)

Photos By Gene Smith



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within the animal. The Florida black bear is one big game species that should be downed in its tracks whenever possible. A hit bear not immediately stopped by bullet impact can get into brush and likely not be seen again. The animals know how to effectively conceal themselves in the minimum of cover when badly wounded and head for the roughest, most impenetrable country, if possessed of the necessary remaining energy.

The 12 gauge shotgun, loaded with rifled slugs or large buckshot or—in the case of a repeater—both, is often used. But the shotgun is primarily a close-quarter weapon; except by pure luck, you won't bag a bear with it if the target is at rifle range.

Close-up, it is the equivalent of a small cannon! Pity the Florida black bear hunter who had the opportunity to shoot a dog-chased black at the close range of six feet, but who wouldn't shoot because of lack of confidence in his weapon. Actually, his double-barrelled 12 gauge loaded with 00 size buckshot—at such close range—was the best weapon anywhere along the long line of hunters who had taken stands in the mosquito-infested swamp. The poor fellow could easily have bagged the prize. Do not have any qualms if you encounter your bear under similar conditions, with like weapon and shell loads.

If you happen to own a drilling—a European type combination gun featuring large caliber rifle barrel and twin shotgun tubes, you have the ideal bear hunting weapon right at hand. You'll be prepared for any kind of field shot within average bear hunting range.

A rifle caliber like the European 9.3 × 72R teamed with two smoothbore barrels of 12 or 16 gauge represents a particularly fine combination. Many European-made drillings are chambered for the 9.3 × 72R cartridge or one of similar potency.

Where you can effectively place your shot depends to a great extent on what kind of shot the quarry momentarily offers. The body of a running bear alternately contracts and stretches, like an accordion in the hands of a musician; picking out a particular bit of anatomy as aiming point may be hard.

Whenever you can, shoot for the lung area, close to the heart. Correct aiming point is low, just back of a shoulder.

Not only does the lung shot provide a sizable target—one that will result in quick disability if subjected to bullet destruction—but you will have added chance if, in the excitement of shooting, you err, shoot a bit high and hit shoulder. A bear with a broken shoulder will usually be stopped long enough for a finishing shot.



Despite some common comments about bear as a food item, the proper dressed-out care when freshly killed—like a domestic animal—provides the lucky hunter with enjoyable table fare.

Spine and head shots are favored by some hunters, but are difficult for the average hunter to make on running game.

Animals brought to bay or treed by hounds are easiest targets.

But the bear hunter who downs a running target will never forget the moment and will always be glad his kill occurred in that memorable way.

Toting a big bear kill to civilization from the depths of a swamp and later skinning it are two jobs that, at best, can be classified as "far from easy chores!" Fortunately, there are usually many willing—if not always skilled—hands to share these jobs.

Because a bear has considerable fat, a kill should be dressed out and iced as soon as possible. Don't be like the hunter who shot a bruin on the first day of a three day hunt; hung his kill from a tree during the remaining two days; spent a day driving home with his bear kill across hot car in the sun, plus another day driving around home town proudly displaying his trophy. By the time he got the animal to a taxidermist the hair was coming off the hide in handfuls! The meat was equally worthless.

Don't let unfounded rumors about the unpalatability of bear meat deter you from enjoying roast bear taken from a fresh kill that is obviously young and "butchered meat" tender.

In preparation for table roast, a section of the haunch or saddle should be selected. All large nerves and fat must be removed. For best flavor, the meat should first be soaked and slowly brought to a five minute boil in a soup made of

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 onion, finely chopped | 1 tablespoon lemon juice |
| 1 carrot, diced | 1 clove garlic, mashed |
| 2 sticks of celery, diced | 1 bay leaf |
| 1 teaspoon paprika | 1 dash nutmeg |
| 1 cup of cider | ½ teaspoon mustard |
| 2 tablespoons orange juice | |

Combine the ingredients in an enamelware pan. Slowly bring to a boil for five minutes, then let the bear meat marinate in the liquid for several hours. Remove the meat; roast, and baste frequently with a sauce prepared from the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 clove garlic, mashed | ½ teaspoon salt |
| 4 tablespoons melted butter | ⅛ teaspoon pepper |
| | ½ teaspoon paprika |
| 1 teaspoon prepared mustard | 1 tablespoon tomato juice |
| ⅛ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce | |

The cooking will be easy; the hardest part will be bagging the bear meat for the pot.

At one time, the Florida black bear was quite numerous, but as the general bear habitat has given away to homes and industry, succeeding generations have been forced to seek sanctuary in still existing wilderness, especially in protected public land areas like the Ocala, Apalachicola and Osceola national forests of Florida and in remote spots in Okefenokee Swamp and the vast Everglades.

Game biologists estimate there are now around

1,000 to 1,200 black bear in Florida's wilds. The species is highly valued economically and as sporting quest; Florida bear hunters have no hesitation about spending many thousands of dollars every season for their sport. The annual bear harvest average runs less than 10% of population.

Even in our own generation, some big bear have been bagged in Florida. One—live-trapped near Jacksonville—weighed 580 pounds. Another—shot near Paisley, bordering the Ocala National Forest—weighed 515 pounds and had left hind foot tracks that measured 10½ inches long, 7½ inches wide. There are more big ones that have not been weighed or measured.

A bear is not without faults that can lead to downfall. One is a bear's habit of using the same trails and paths until detected. Such a beast is vulnerable to being trailed by any inquisitive dog or human who runs across signs of his passing.

Besides foot tracks, a wild bear may leave other signs of his existence—bite and claw marks in trunks of trees, freshly overturned logs or remains of a recent meal or dung. Look for them.

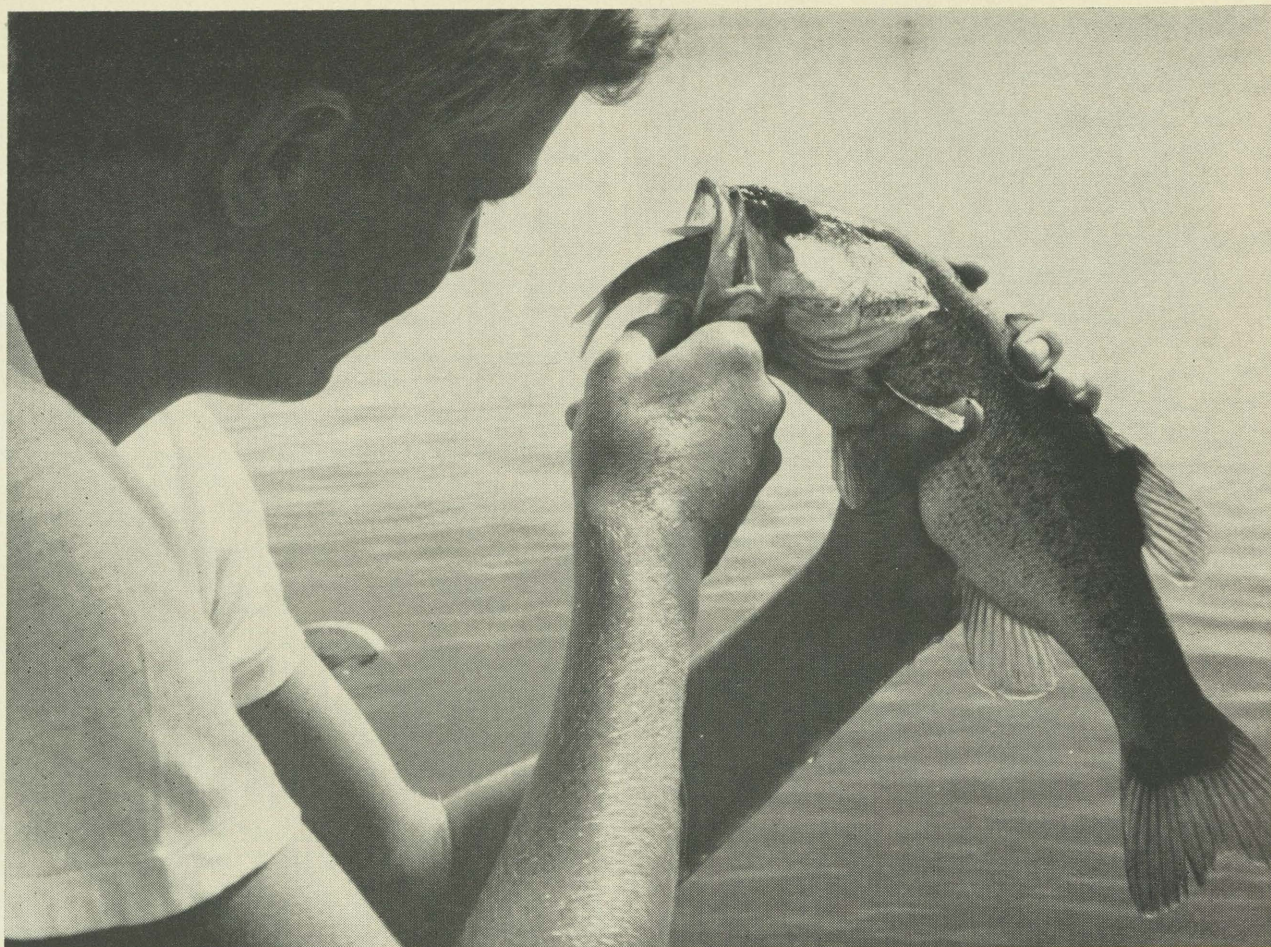
Many animals comprising the total state bear population are in areas open to controlled public hunting, but only a relatively few will fall to guns. The Florida black bear is no sucker for man-planned setups! His sagacity, keen sense of smell and hearing, surprising agility and ground covering speed are not easy to defeat. Your problem is to first locate one, get him in your sights and make the shot count. To mince no words, a bear trophy is usually hard to get.

But, first chance, this season or next, go bear hunting. It will be an experience you won't forget—and, too, you may be among the fortunate few. ●

Photos By Gene Smith

Keen-nosed, courageous, persevering dogs are rated as very necessary for black bear hunting throughout normal Florida type scrub and swamp habitat. Bear cubs and estimated weights less than 100 pounds are illegal to take.





Ultimate consumers. Bass eats shiner, boy (John Bainter) eats bass. Shiners are most reliable bass-producing natural bait.

whether caught or bought, anglers
can always count on . . .

By ART HUTT

Golden Shiners

FOR DAY-AFTER-DAY bass-catching dependability, there's no other Florida live bait that matches the golden shiner. Blessed with built-in bass appeal, growing to ideal bite-size proportions, with enough stamina to stay active despite being impaled on a hook, the shiner is readily available year 'round whether you buy or catch your own.

Not a Florida specialty, *Notemigonus crysoleucas* is widespread throughout the United States with many regional subspecies. Fishery experts label the wild Florida version as *N. crysoleucas bosci*, apparently finding some small variation in its structure that sets it apart from the species and other subspecies.

But that doesn't seem to make any difference to the bass.

This streamlined bass attractor could be termed "handsome" both in body shape and coloration. A somewhat pointed head houses a small, rather up-turned mouth. The dorsal fin is set well back. The tail is forked. In younger fish, the body tends to be cylindrical; as the fish grows older it flattens out vertically and becomes a little deeper.

Coloration is olive green on the back with silvery sides, but as the shiner matures, the silver is replaced by a brassy golden sheen.

These shiners can—and do—grow up to 12 inches although the most popular bait size is around 4-to-6 inches.

In Florida, the golden shiner lives in most all lakes and rivers, but especially those with muddy bottoms and heavy vegetation. From my own per-

sonal observations, I'd say they're scarce in the extra-clear lakes.

Spawning takes place from March through July with vast numbers of sticky eggs deposited on vegetation. The fast-growing young feed on the microscopic organisms which abound in Florida waters, switching to insects and vegetation as they grow older. In some of the larger lakes and streams out west, golden shiners are sometimes fished for with tiny trout flies, both for sport and food. Somehow, fried shiner just doesn't sound too appetizing to me, however.

Prior to 1940, for commercial purposes, native or "wild shiners" were collected mostly by cast-netting—a few by hook and line.

With a few exceptions, castnets have largely disappeared from the scene. Years ago, "shiner men" had water routes which they'd work regularly. Their shiner holes may have been indentations in the weeds where shiners gathered or frequently the castnetters would cut potholes and keep them baited with oatmeal or cottonseed cake.

Several events have diminished the castnetting art in Florida, however. One is the dealer and customer preference for hatchery shiners. Another is their guaranteed availability and low cost. Fish being fish, a castnet doesn't always yield results.

And throwing a castnet is back-breaking—and wet—work.

There are few castnetters left but one individual who still humors his customers when they demand wild shiners is Ed Heitling at Central Florida's Howey Boat Basin on Little Lake Harris.

His net, a typical style, has a seven foot radius and is fringed with lead weights. The object is to sail the net out over the water, then let it sink to imprison the shiners within its circumference. As the net is yanked back aboard, it traps and holds the shiners within its folds.

I'm always impressed that a castnetter can keep his own teeth for one edge of the net is held in his mouth while the remainder of the lead-weighted bottom is swirled backwards, then pitched forward, hopefully to hit the water in a perfect circle. Loss of coordination could mean loss of teeth—or dignity after an off-balance splash into the lake.

The hatchery shiner (left) sometimes varies subtly from the native shiner (right) in having blunter head, deeper body, and is more silvery than brassy in general colors.

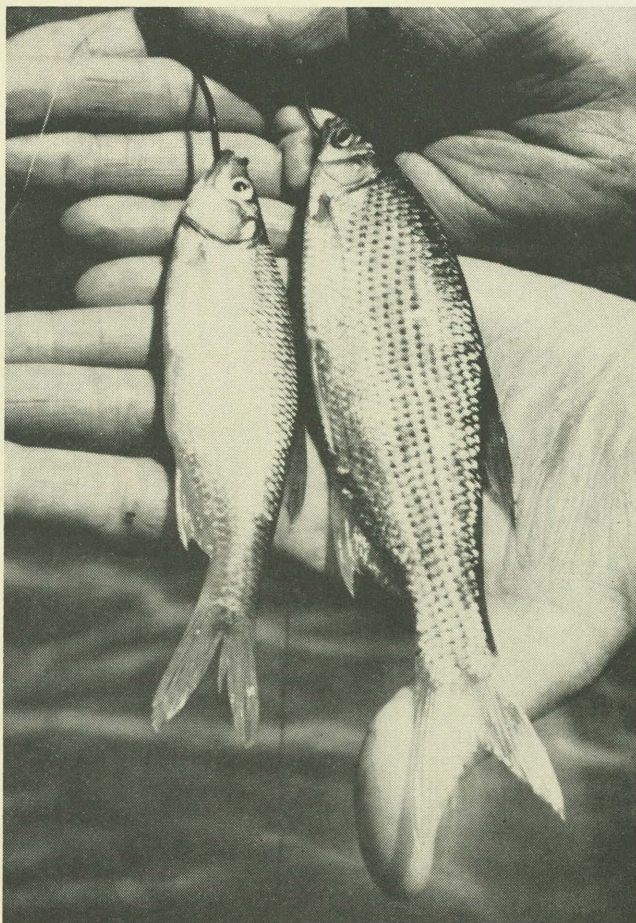
But the net doesn't work everywhere. Don Piepers, guide and part-owner of DeLand's Hontoon Marina on the St. Johns River says they've given it up completely. The shiners, momentarily thrashing around under the net in the St. Johns River silt, clog their gills. While they're okay if used right away, they don't hold in a bait tank very well. When customers demand them, most guides and suppliers now catch their shiners with hook and line.

While the hatchery shiner has truly diminished the art of shiner fishing, many of my fishing memories involve trying for shiners on one side of the boat, for bass on the other. We'd chum with oatmeal and lash the water with the shiner poles to create all the fuss we could—ostensibly to attract the shiners' attention. Watching a tiny bobber bounce not only made the time between bass bites pass more quickly but also added more bait to the livewell.

Shiners will go for a variety of offerings. Once, while fishing with crickets for bluegills, we finally discovered what was stripping the crickets from our hooks. A switch to a smaller hook and a cricket fragment put a sizable supply of bass bait in our bucket. While watching television on the night

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Photos By Art Hutt



(Continued from preceding page)

before a shiner-bass foray, one enterprising angler I know rolls a flour and water mixture into BB-size balls—ready for the next day. Others use worm fragments or bread, the latter being most popular.

I like oatmeal best—probably because I grew up with it. And it does make a convenient “chum.”

To ready oatmeal for shiner fishing, take a handful, dip your closed fist in water for a couple of seconds, and then squeeze the oatmeal into a solid mass. Add a little more water if necessary. Then, as you need it, break off a small piece and “ball” it.

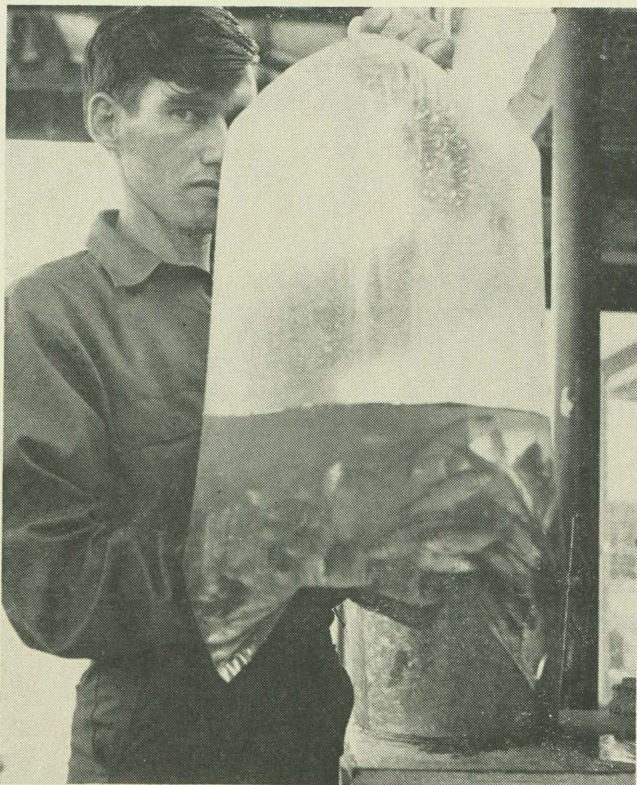
A shiner’s mouth is small so keep your bait that way, too.

Combine a short cane pole, monofilament line, tiny float, split shot, and a long-shanked hook (about number 14) for an ideal shiner rig. In general, shiners stay rather deep but not on the bottom. They’re experienced nibblers and it is not always easy to make the proper connections.

Hatchery shiners are of the same genus and species, but they frequently vary from the wild shiner in having a head more blunt, the body a little deeper and thicker, and a color more silvery than brassy. Usually these variations are subtle, however.

Hatchery shiners are shipped into Florida mainly from Arkansas, Missouri, and Alabama. They come to distributors (jobbers) who hold them to be picked up by the wholesalers and delivered to dealers throughout the state.

Photos By Art Hutt



Although it has been attempted, there have been few successful shiner hatcheries in the state. Jack Dequine, consulting fishery biologist of Leesburg, suggested several reasons why they’re usually unprofitable.

For one, a suitable gravity flow system of good water in Florida is hard to find. It costs money to move water. And, while shiners grow fast, so do weeds. Treatment by chemicals also adds to the cost.

Dequine also mentions that the size shiner needed in Florida (there’s little demand for them elsewhere) is too expensive to rear. The bread-and-butter item of a hatchery is small minnows—not big shiners. And while small golden shiner minnows are accepted just about everywhere else, Floridians prefer “tuffies”—or fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*)—for perch bait. So, in those hatcheries which raise golden shiners, the two and three year old breeders, having already served their purpose, can then be sold as “bass bait.”

Predators such as seagulls, kingfishers, herons, egrets, grackles, snakes, frogs—to name a few—are also more of a problem year around in our state.

And A. D. Aldrich, manager of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Richloam Hatchery adds, “It’s expensive to start out and compete with people that have the local business pretty well in hand.”

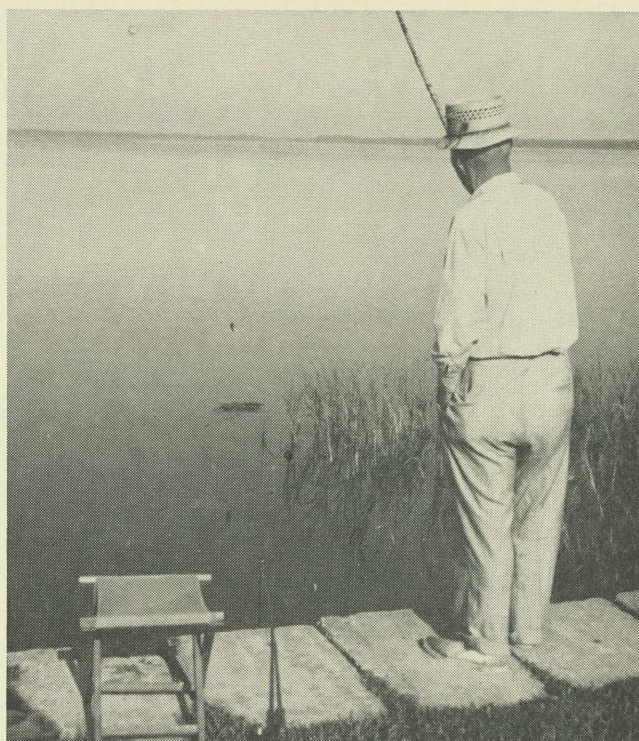
The two biggest shiner distributors in Florida are centrally located at Leesburg. One, Anderson’s, is an outlet for the “world’s largest minnow farm” at Lonoke, Arkansas, with over 3,600 acres in rearing ponds. The other Leesburg jobber is Clark Buford who buys from hatcheries both in Arkansas and Missouri.

The latter installation, managed by Frank Day, has 24 holding tanks, all 40 feet long, some 5 feet wide, others 10 feet wide. Semi-trailers, holding from 3-to-5,000 pounds of shiners and minnows in aerated tanks haul the shiners in from out of state, and flush them into the tanks by gravity flow through a long plastic 4-inch diameter pipe.

Shiners are purchased from the hatchery by “grades.” Medium (25 to 29 grade) means the shiners weigh 25 to 29 pounds per 1,000. Large (29 grade and up) means that 1,000 shiners weigh 29 or more pounds.

Since a tankful of shiners represents a sizeable investment and since crowding (up to 2,000 pounds of shiners per tank) causes complications, they’re

In an oxygen-filled bag, a small shipment of shiners will keep for a long time. Large shipments are delivered from distributor by pickup truck to dealers all over the state.



Hitting water in perfect circle, left, indicates a talented net caster; in this case, Ed Heitling of Howey Boat Basin. Lead weights on the cast net's edge sends up spray. Catching own bait, right, G. Anderson of Eustis, flips a shiner out of water. Shiner fishing between bass-bites doubles the sport.

"baby-sat" 24 hours a day. A broken agitator, too high a water temperature, or an outbreak of fungus can cause immediate trouble and loss. Various chemical preparations are added to the water to ward off disease and the shiners are fed a protein-rich preparation. Between usages, the tanks are drained and scrubbed.

Shiners are sold from the distributor to the wholesaler by the pound (in large quantities) or by the dozen (in small quantities). Pickup trucks equipped with tanks and agitators haul the big orders, while smaller quantities are put in sturdy plastic bags filled with oxygen.

Anderson's, for example, has 31 wholesalers who deliver shiners to customers as far away as Miami. Combined, these two outlets handle over 200,000 pounds of shiners per year. A run-of-the-mill, five-inch hatchery shiner weighs one ounce—which could mean that over 3,000,000 shiners are sold in Florida each year.

To the fishermen, how do the native and the hatchery shiners stack up?

There's little doubt that the more complacent hatchery shiner is easier to get along with, unlike the native shiner which is always zeroing in on an opening of your livewell or bait bucket. Unless natives are stored in a cool dark place, they'll literally knock their noses off jumping for freedom.

For storage and handling purposes and all around toughness, the hatchery shiner is tops. Its hardiness stems from good breeding stock and rear-

ing under controlled conditions. They're grown in fertilized water and fed a controlled diet with medicinal supplements.

Wild shiners lose scales easily—a quick invitation to fungus diseases.

There seems to be mixed opinions on their hardiness on the hook and their bass attractiveness. Many old-timers swear the wild shiners stay livelier longer, have a more pronounced (and therefore attracting) odor to their protective slimy coverings, and a more bass-enticing brassier color. Some St. Johns River guides dip their hatchery shiners in Mercurochrome to restore the flash. Too, native "horse" shiners—shiners about 12 inches long that are as "big as a horse" or "can choke a horse"—can be caught and used for trophy bass—a common practice along the St. Johns. Hatchery shiners are usually sold before they get that big.

I could be wrong, but I think a hatchery shiner will work longer and harder on the hook, and survive casts to likely spots more gracefully than a native shiner. While a half-dead shiner may attract an infrequent fish, one that is constantly trying to tug itself to freedom is a far more interesting inducement to a bass.

And hatchery shiners are always available at your dealers—while the natives may not respond to your most appealing offerings when you need them the most.

But in any event, ounce for ounce, either shiner is probably the bassiest bait that swims. ●



This fine buck was taken on the Eglin Field area (in the Northwest Region), where rifles are prohibited. Shotguns firing buckshot prove successful for close-in, moving game hunting action.

there are deer to be had by
the Florida "bigger game"
hunter—more than in the
early settler days—and they
appear further educated
to the ways of man

DEER HUNTING. These are magic words to hundreds of thousands of American sportsmen—about 80,000 in Florida alone. And did you know that one in four Florida deer hunters will kill a white-tailed buck this season? This is one heck of a good prospect for a state that *had* only around 26,000 deer 25 years ago.

There are explanations for the growth of Florida's deer herd, which, according to the latest estimate, approaches 200,000 animals—and continues to increase.

Four major factors have been involved in the deer population explosion: Changes in land use that, so far, have favored deer; an abundance of plant life year-round; a responsible wildlife management program which includes protection, and the eradication of the screw worm fly.

Virtually every book and article written about white-tailed deer at some point mentions the highly plausible contention that there are more deer in America now than in pre-colonial days. If this is true of any part of the country it is certainly true of Florida.

White-tails thrive in partially cleared brushy terrain, not the dense, shaded, overstoried woodlands that greeted our forefathers on these shores. Those virgin forests offered very little for the sustenance and comfort of deer. Too much of the greenery was out of reach.

Good deer country was, in a sense, created incidentally as a result of the clearing of land for other purposes, which let in the blessed sunlight and caused plants which could be utilized as deer food to grow profusely. Ideal deer range, then, is land with scattered cover and ample food within four-and-a-half feet of the ground—within a deer's easy reach.

Florida presently has no shortage of either of these two basic requirements.

Where both the Indians and the early white settlers were highly dependent upon deer for their living the herds are now managed in the interest of outdoor recreation through the perpetuation of hunting. And this is not done solely for the benefit of the hunter. It is necessary to the well-being of the deer themselves. Hunting serves as a vital check

on the mushrooming deer population. Allowed to become too dense a herd invariably experiences natural reduction by disease and malnutrition—Nature's old stand-by remedy for overcrowding, tested and tried in virtually every state in the Union that has white-tailed deer.

A "saturation point" in Florida's deer population could be reached in another ten years when the total may hit 400,000 animals, according to projections based on past rates of increase and the state's calculated maximum potential carrying capacity.

Long before this total is reached there will have been *localized* problems of deer over-population requiring reduction of the number of breeding animals—already on record in parts of Florida. A glance at the high productivity rates of white-tails as compared to the low rates of harvest under a "bucks only" law should tell why this is bound to be.

Deer are promiscuous. One amorous buck will mate with every receptive doe he can find. Hence, an unbred doe, if she's healthy, is a rarity. And most does are quite healthy. After their first breeding, which normally produces a single offspring, they commonly have twin fawns annually, remaining productive throughout their lives on good range, which is sometimes as long as 14 or 15 years.

Since there are about 150 does to every 100 bucks in a pre-hunt adult deer population and since only half of the legal bucks are harvested yearly under present hunting regulations (which amounts to a bare 10% of the *total* population) it should be quite obvious that the slim buck harvest certainly doesn't hurt annual production. And the *combined* effects of the legal harvest, accidental deaths, illegal kill, natural mortality, animal predation and increasing road kills won't either. These total only about 30% annual loss—of all ages and both sexes, an amount easily replaced and surpassed by production.

The handwriting on the wall says that the state's deer herd is bound to overcrowd in spots just as surely as the world is round.

Another interesting fact about white-tail deer behavior reveals why overcrowding occurs *locally* and not *generally*.

As anyone who has hunted them knows, deer are not evenly distributed in Florida. They have home preferences just the same as people. But what many people don't know is that white-tails will not move from one range to another even when in need of fresh food supplies. They just don't migrate, research has shown, for any reason, hard times included. They will live out their lives, raise their

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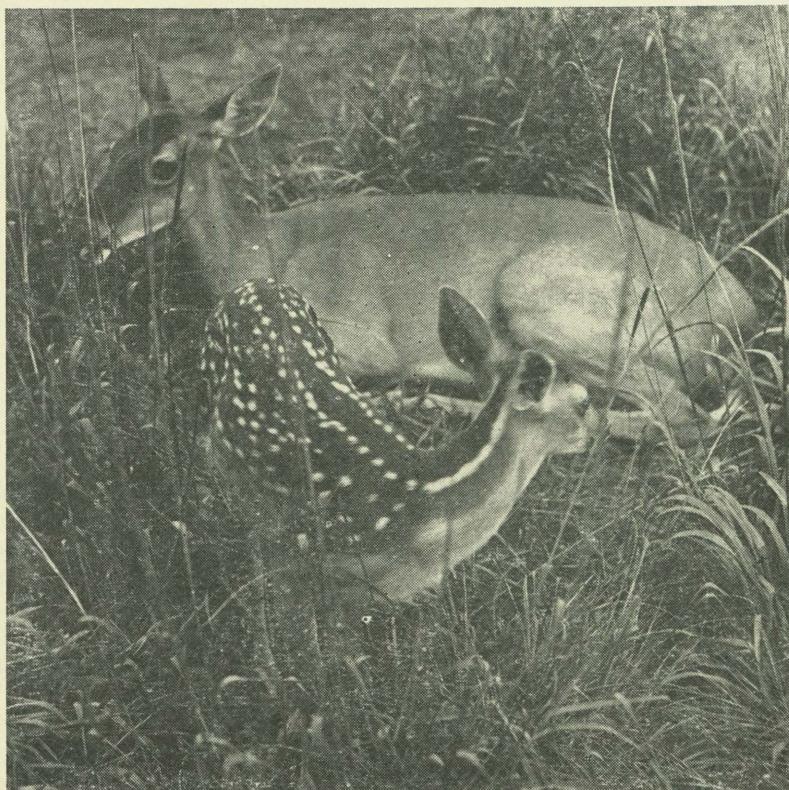
deep south white-tails

Photos By Gene Smith

By GENE SMITH

A white-tailed doe—after first birth of a single fawn—may then produce twins annually, especially on the habitat ranges in excellent deer condition.

Only those white-tailed deer having one or more antlers at least 5-inches in length may be taken, unless otherwise authorized by Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission regulations. The daily bag limit of antlered-deer is 2; the season bag limit is 3; the possession limit is 3.



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young and die within an area of about 200 acres—less than one third of a square mile! This characteristic of the species often works to its detriment.

Signs of too many deer on a given tract are hard to detect in Florida even by a game biologist. Diseases and parasite infestations are usually killing deer before their plight is discovered. But periodic checks are made around the state on the condition of deer herds. The information obtained tells the game biologist whether or not he has a healthy or a "sick" deer herd.

Once an indication of overcrowding, or near-overcrowding, is obtained the situation demands the co-operative efforts of professional game managers and knowledgeable hunters. They should attempt to correct the problem together—before the ravages of disease and parasites (reported in Florida deer from time to time) are allowed to cause the decimation of a herd.

Controlled "either sex" deer hunting with firearms is recognized as the most efficient method of deer herd reduction yet known—consistent with the wise-use concept of wildlife conservation. It allows the license buyer to harvest and utilize surplus venison while achieving the primary goal of restoring a proper balance between the number of animals and a given area's capacity to support them.

This business about balance, though the word is over-used and too little understood by most of us armchair ecologists, is known to be an all-important factor in the maintenance of the health and vigor of a deer herd. Ask Texas, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. They, among other states, have ex-

perienced deer herd die-offs of varying degrees and, when necessary, have geared hunting regulations to help prevent recurrences, or at least to minimize them.

Florida has had similar experiences and should prepare for more.

The next questions, then, are where are all these deer and how do I kill one . . . or two . . . or three this season?

We'll take a look at both questions after this "deer hunters' capsule" of the 1967-68 regulations.

All really rabid deer hunters have already informed themselves that the general season opens November 11, in all regions except Northwest Florida, which opens the following Saturday, November 18. Please note, one and all, that only buck deer having at least one antler or spike five or more inches long will be legal game this year. And note also that evidence of the deer's sex, including the head, must remain on the carcass while it is in the field, in camp or while being transported.

The *daily* bag limit on deer is two per day; the *possession* limit is three; and the *season* limit is three. Legal shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

The use of rifles or free running dogs for deer hunting is prohibited in DeSoto, Hardee, Manatee and Sarasota counties. These counties also have reduced seasons, as does Gilchrist and a portion of Levy. Their season ends November 19 after a nine-day run.

There's no open deer or bear season on the Florida Keys.

Deer season ends in the Everglades, South, Central and Northeast Regions on January 1 and in the Northwest Region January 14.

Hunting is permitted every day between the announced opening and closing dates for any particular location.

Some notes on legal weapons and ammunition will be discussed a little later.

Now that we've swallowed *that* let's find out a little about Florida white-tails and how to hunt them.

Right away you'd better believe they're smart. They play hide-and-seek with people all the time. Most often the hunter is "it" whether he knows it or not. He is seen by the wise old buck much more often than the buck is seen by the hunter. Those who choose to pit their patience and skill as woodsmen and hunters against the wary white-tail should learn all they can about his ways. "Still" hunting them (literally "quiet" hunting) particularly calls for expertise if success is to be achieved with consistency. This form of deer hunting, especially with a trusted rifle at one's side, can be the most personally satisfying of all.

Photo By Lovett Williams



Florida white-tailed doe population continues to outnumber bucks, about 3-to-2. Deer herds continue to increase in size under the "bucks only" regulations, set by popular demand of sport hunters. A buck will mate with several receptive does.



Photo By Gene Smith

About one-of-four deer hunters will score this season. This party beat the odds by far—a fourth member also bagged his buck the same day. Season limit is 3 “antlered-only” bucks per hunter; antlers must be one or more at least 5-inches.

Many old-time deerslayers, as well as younger ones, to the north of us will deny that there is any other proper way to take a buck, hurling epithets of insult, both spoken and printed, at deer drivers (“community hunters”) and those who hunt deer with hounds (“shooters, not hunters”).

But in Florida, as in much of the Deep South, *most* of the terrain is genuinely unsuited for still hunting. Consequently, deer hunting with dogs has endeared itself to generations of hunters.

White-tails can be found closer to your home than you probably realize. They are extremely adaptable animals and if unmolested will make their rounds close to man’s interests without apparent alarm.

Even the casual observer may discover deer tracks near his home on an afternoon walk. If he’s interested in hunting he should study the area to discover which way most of the deer traffic moves. White-tails take the same trails regularly when moving undisturbed. These game trails can provide the best possible leads to successful deer hunts this season . . . even if you don’t own a pack of expensive deer hounds.

We pointed out earlier that Florida white-tailed deer are creatures of the brush. They are also creatures of the night, browsing during the hours of

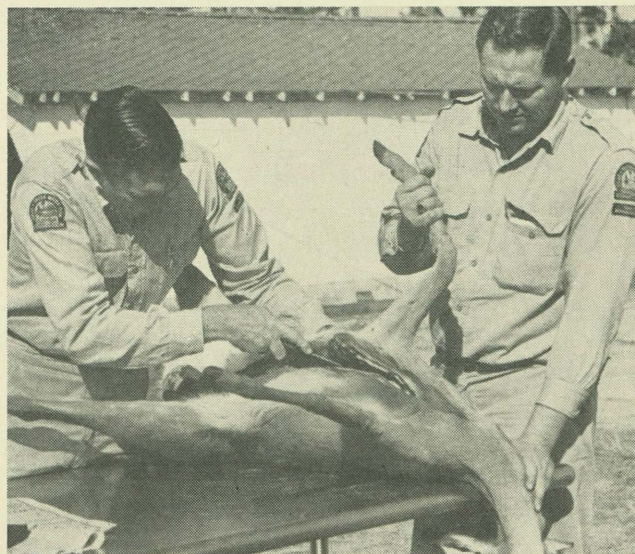
darkness and stealing away at dawn to lie in quiet seclusion through the day. Look for them in thickets if you’re a still hunter. They’ll be bedded in good cover. Work out an area very slowly, covering no more than two or three miles in a full day’s hunt. And remember that a buck will often lie low and let you pass. Move quietly for short distances, wait, look and look some more. You might spot a flapped ear or a turning head as an old mossy backed buck sizes you up. Still hunt with the wind in your face if at all possible. This is an elementary rule. It keeps the deer’s sensitive nose from picking up your scent (no offense intended), which will cause him to depart before you ever have a chance to know he was there. Many a beginning hunter ambles through the brambles rather like a Patton tank with no knowledge of terrain or concern for wind direction. That makes him automatically neither “still” nor “hunter”—and usually deer-less he’ll remain. It may cause an older buck to remain motionless until the commotion is past, after which he may either stay put or slip quietly out of his cover and away in the opposite direction. (This is often the reason a buck will walk up on a stationary deer stander. Another hunter has put him on the move.)

Besides knowledge of deer habits and cover preferences it is good to know what deer eat and to be able to identify at least a portion of those plants. The serious deer hunter will learn all he can about his game.

Studies of the Florida white-tail’s food preferences, based on stomach content analyses of hundreds of deer taken by hunters around the state, show they eat approximately 41% mast, mostly acorns and palmetto berries; 38% woody plants, leaves and twigs; 11% herbaceous plants, such as fern and deer’s tongue; 9% mushrooms; and only 1% grasses. A list of specific food items, in the order

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Photo By Dick Eichhorn



Deer-death checks for disease and parasites are important in sound deer management. Game biologists check deer internally for unhealthy parasite levels possibly caused by overcrowding.

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of their volume of intake, reads like this: Oak, both acorns and leaves; palmetto berries, mushrooms, bamboo briar, deer's tongue and gallberry; leaves of titi, blueberry, dahoon holly, willow and bay; legumes; wicky, ferns and fruiting heads of sumac; elderberry, black haw, yellow jessamine and blackberry leaves. Other browse foods include leaves of buttonbush, smilax, myrtle, black gum, cypress, hawthorne and a few pine needles.

It is not surprising, then, that the greatest number of deer—and the largest average weights and measurements of the state's deer population—occur in the extensive pine flatwoods and pine-oak uplands of Central and North (including Northwest) Florida. It is in these two vegetation types that the bulk of the above foods are produced.

According to surveys reported in *The White-tailed Deer in Florida*, by Richard F. Harlow and F. K. Jones (published by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, 1965), these vegetation types cover almost 70% of the state's land area. The remainder is about evenly divided between swamps, hammocks, fresh water marshes and prairies—which provide plenty of deer also and present unique hunting requirements.

Significantly, harmful land use practices, such as the complete eradication of oak trees in favor of producing pine trees, are listed in the above publication as factors that limit the size of the deer herd. On the other hand, selective pulpwood and other timber cutting is known to increase the amount of deer foods available, thus benefitting the herd.

While still hunting, both in the slow-moving style and in the stationary "stand" method, is fairly productive in some areas of the state it is impractical and often impossible in most of Florida.

When the hunter is visible for too great a distance, as he is in a typical open flatwoods, or when the undergrowth is so thick he can't move through it at all—much less noiselessly—the situation calls for deer hounds.

When the wide, wet prairies and fresh water marshes of southern Florida are spread out before the deer hunter the situation calls for swamp buggies, half-tracks or airboats. These are the only practical ways to get the hunter and his game together in the sawgrass country.

So Florida has every form of terrain, except mountains, known to the hunter of the white-tailed deer . . . and every method of hunting them is employed. But the most popular method—and by far the most productive—is the deer drive conducted by a hunting party using hounds. This is the Southern deer hunt to most of us.

In this method the hunters take positions, or stands, along the most likely escape roads or crossing places while the dogs "work" a particular head, hammock or section of forest. Many such stands are



Photo By Lovett Williams

Florida white-tails are at home in heavy brush where they generally rest during the day. Because of dense cover over most of state hunting areas, deer dogs are often a "must."

along woods roads, grades, logging trails or fire-breaks. When a buck is put to flight it might be anybody's shot, depending on where he crosses the exposed area.

If a deer race starts to take cross-country proportions today's highly mobile hunters will take to their vehicles to head off the quarry at the next known crossing place.

The use of two-way radio communications in recent years has added still more sophistication to the deer hunter's arsenal, although the thought makes many people shudder at the increasing amount of unfairness to the deer.

Yet another form of deer hunting is the drive by a group of organized hunters without the aid of dogs, vehicles or radios.

Where the cover is good and walking not too difficult it will work. Six or more hunters should move through a section or hammock in a horseshoe formation. The progress should be fairly slow so as not to shock a deer into high speed flight. Ideally the game should be aroused only enough to make him try to slip furtively away—through the open end of the horseshoe, where, with luck, one of the point men will get a shot.

In conducting this kind of drive a little noise is

called for but the point men must already be in position when the drive starts in order to keep the deer from slipping out unseen ahead of them. All members of the drive should be prepared for the buck who tries to double back to escape *through* the formation instead of *out* of it.

It is imperative in this method that every hunter know where the other members of the party are—for reasons of safety. Each man should hold his original position at all costs, firing only in a direction away from the others. Deer drivers should know each other's woods habits pretty well.

There is another hunt method, mentioned earlier, that requires a very special kind of a man. It is the deer stand method.

To be able to remain almost motionless in one spot, in cold weather, from dawn to dinner and then 'til dusk, if necessary, is a demanding way to hunt deer. The "stander" must be a man who can commune with nature; who enjoys being in the woods alone for long periods of time.

Not the least problem of the deer stander is staying awake, which, if you prefer the tree stand for visibility advantage, is pretty darned important. Many a dozing hunter has opened his eyes to see a trophy buck passing just out of sight. And a few tree standers have fallen from their perches while napping, sustaining serious injuries or death at worst and proving that you can be embarrassed when all alone at best.

If you contemplate this form of deer hunting this year—and it can pay off if there are other hunters in the area to keep the game moving—remember that deer use their noses and their eyes most to detect danger. Keep as motionless as possible when on a stand, keeping the sharpest vigil in the up-wind direction, the most likely direction from which a walking deer will approach you. And *listen*. You may hear a deer's approach before you see him. In this case be prepared but also make *double-sure* the target is game—legal game—before you slip off that safety!

Now about this matter of color, hunter safety and kill success we are of the firm opinion that wearing safety color does more good than harm since we'd rather live than kill a deer if the choice came right down to that. And since deer are color-blind the color of the hunter's clothing (as long as it isn't white) won't adversely affect his kill success very much anyway. We've said that *motion* and *man scent* are the chief factors that warn deer of man's presence in the woods.

If the hunter is inclined, therefore, to wear bright clothing in order to be conspicuous to other hunters

we say go to it—particularly if you're going to still hunt. We would quickly add, however, that the hunter should not rely on color alone to provide for his personal safety afield. Here's the reason. In Florida's dense deer country hunters most often see only *parts* of other hunters. Perhaps just a patch of fabric will be visible through a small opening in the scrub. In such a case not even a hunting outfit made from a U. S. flag will help distinguish man from game.

The red, yellow or orange outfitted deer hunter should still conduct himself in such a manner as not to attract attention to himself—while also being *ultra-attentive* of what is moving within his visibility.

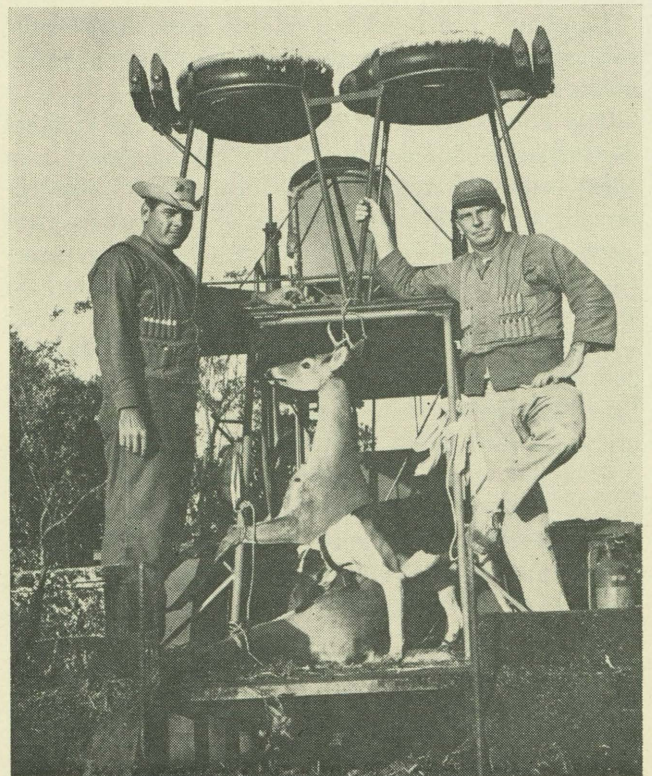
Warren Page said it best in the *FIELD & STREAM Guide to Deer Hunting* (1966): "The accomplished deer hunter is he who so proceeds that he sees every other hunter first." This is *defensive hunting*. If more of us practised it there'd hardly be any concern for the color of our hunting clothes.

If you are among the jillions of hunters who insist that camouflage clothing is the only way to go—regardless of the game—we say "good luck" and why not try the fairly new red camouflage duds now being marketed for deer hunters use? It has been pretty well field tested for visibility by man and deer and the results are favorable. Men see it, deer don't.

Finally on this subject, if your intention in wearing standard camouflaging is to conceal yourself

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Photo By Jim Brantly



Deer hunting in the Everglades requires special vehicles making it more expensive than in most northern sections. Weapons, equipment, vehicles and hunting methods should all be tailored to fit the variety of hunting terrains.

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from human eyes in the belief that to be unseen is to be unshot, then we wish you well and trust that your woodsmanship and good luck get you through another season unscathed.

Turning briefly to the subject of choosing an arm for Florida deer hunting we will only submit that general requirements eliminate any need for an elephant gun. Many hunters shoot shotguns with buckshot or rifled slugs, the former being particularly effective on running deer at short ranges, the typical shot you're likely to get. Many others prefer a good brush-bucking rifle, usually chambered for cartridges between the .270 Winchester and the .35 Remington, firing soft-nosed bullets no lighter than 150 grains in weight.

Ask a *reputable* dealer in sporting arms to help you select the rifle best suited for your needs. Such readily available calibers as the .270, 7 MM. Mauser, .30-30 Winchester, .30-06 Springfield, .300 Savage, .308 Winchester, .32 Winchester Special and the .35 Remington all fill the bill. Other calibers—a couple smaller and several that are larger—are in use. Take your pick—but beware the guy who tries to sell you on the .30 caliber carbine as the “perfect” deer rifle. It meets none of the commonly accepted ballistic requirements as such.

You might keep in mind that hunting deer or bear with full-jacketed ammunition (in fact the possession of it while hunting big game) is prohibited. This eliminates, of course, the military ball stuff.

Also illegal are: .22 rimfire cartridges for taking deer or bear, fully automatic weapons, silencer-equipped weapons or shotguns capable of holding more than three shells.

Handguns are legal for taking game in Florida, subject to the same ammo type and size requirements already mentioned.

The above are regulations of statewide application at large. On certain wildlife management areas rifles are prohibited and on others shot size for certain species is also regulated. (A typical minimum for buckshot, for instance, is number one.) Always check local regulations before hunting on an individual management area.

The bow and arrow is defined as a gun in Florida and may be used for taking native game in season. Bows for taking deer or bear must be capable of casting a one-ounce hunting arrow 150 yards.

Crossbows are prohibited in the Sunshine State as are explosive arrow heads and the drug-delivering “hypo-heads.”

We suppose it's safe to say that bowhunting for

white-tails is the oldest form of American deer hunting. And today's bowmen are enjoying their sport in growing numbers, especially in Florida.

Volumes have been written about the tackle and special techniques required to pursue this sport successfully. We suggest you read one if you're the least bit interested in taking up serious bowhunting. Afterward, if you're one of those who is dedicated enough and who has the ability both to get close enough to your game and to place a broadhead where you want it; and if you possess the determination and superb woodsmanship required to follow a blood trail to an arrow-shot deer, field dress it and pack it clear back to camp unassisted, then you *might* make a first class bowhunter.

Even our very limited exposure to the finer points of this sport has led us to believe that there will always be a little bit of friendly disagreement between the Indian-gunners and the powder-burners about whose sport is the sportiest, whose kills are the cleanest and whose woods savvy is the sharpest. But in Florida the arguments may just fade away since so many hunters appear to be both bow and gun enthusiasts.

After all, it's the only smart course for a *real* Florida deer hunter to take. That way, beginning this year, he will have had a near-continuous open deer season somewhere in the state for four months—from September 16 through January 14. That's more deer hunting than is provided in many states in four or more years!

We've got the deer. Now if we can just do something about the winter divorce rate . . . ●



Bowhunters usually stick with camouflage clothing but gun hunters should wear bright colors for safety—because of the greater numbers. The hunter should “see and be seen.”

Strained Resources

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

DESPITE TODAY's opulence—never dreamed of a few decades ago—the American taxpayer is beginning to wonder if all the present demands on his pocket book can be indefinitely sustained; with an escalating war, escalating welfare, escalating wages and higher prices for commodities—and even escalating recreation. To most people money and security go hand in hand.

But there seems little unanimity in placing hard and fast priorities on these many desires and obligations. A hot-rodding public has vague hopes that Santa Claus, Uncle Sam—or a Divine Providence—will find a solution for all these man-made riddles they have compounded.

There are still too many who resist the drab but all-important reminder that these demands are contingent on protecting and managing the basic resources, and, likewise, too few who will face up to that fact. But these facts are always there, immovable and like a sphinx. Raw resources support the tax base.

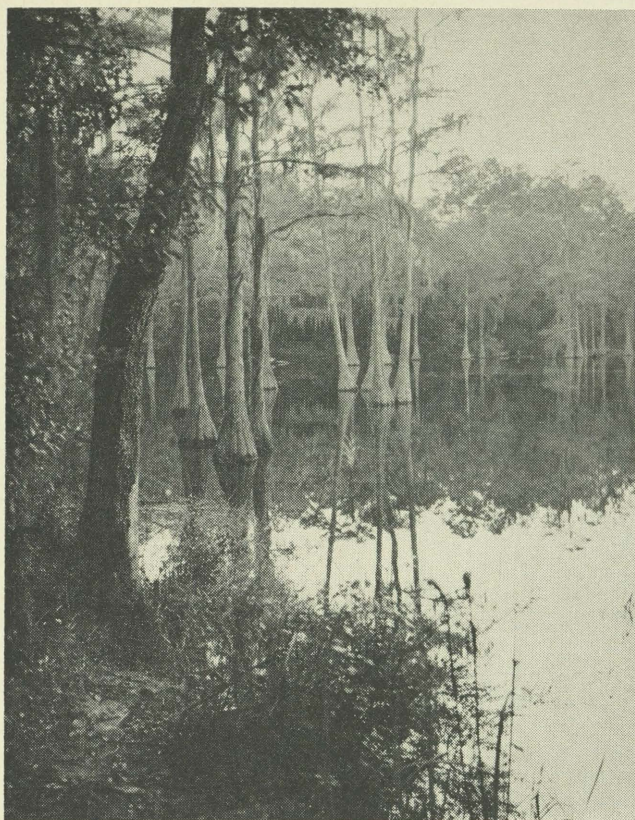
Resource abuse and man-made problems have a common proliferation. Our survival demands have progressed far beyond the needs of simple foods, shelter and heat. These basic requirements are no longer acceptable unless highly refined and made available with little or no physical effort. Nor is this basic tripod of life considered at all sufficient unless cushioned with an increasing number of social and welfare guarantees.

But long continued soil depletion and periodic forest fires, massive water and air pollution problems, the alarming increase of automobile junk yards, and the litter and waste of throw-away articles are creating no wealth to build war machines, or pay for social security, medicare, unemployment compensation, poverty programs and foreign aid. And if resources continue to be destroyed at the present rate with each passing decade, it is logical to assume that our epicurian recreational appetite may be in for some belt-tightening. Some people are afraid of such speculative inquiry and condemn it as a form of irrational thinking.

Of course there is the argument on the other side that new oil and mineral strikes will be found *ad infinitum*, undiscovered plastics will come forth from test tubes, and finally the uncounted riches of the many seas are yet to be tapped.

If all this be true, why all the concern?

In spite of continued and over-riding assurance by segments of industry and government, that our divine right to security and prosperity will be forever perpetuated, there is ever increasing concern that this attitude may be blind optimism. If the



How much is it worth? No price tag can be put on unspoiled, unpolluted scenic beauty. Americans are known for closeness to natural resources; yet so slow to react when threatened.

prophets are correct in this regard why are there ever more queries to be found in newspapers, news magazines, trade and scientific journals? Comments and concern cover a wider range of subject matter on natural resources and human conduct than ever before in history.

The issue now causing the most soul-searching is that of increasing human populations. How many people per acre can this old world tolerate and still retain enjoyable living standards? Standing room only has become an intriguing subject to economists and one of troubled alarm by church leaders. At worst too many people can mean poverty, pestilence and starvation; at best no elbow room.

Since MAN first became a herdsman he has known that too many livestock will destroy pasture and range. Some historians credit the destruction of ancient civilizations in the arid Mid-East and Africa to erosion caused by long continued overgrazing of sheep and goats on elevations above irrigating systems. In simple terms, the soil, devoid of cover, slid into rivers which fed irrigation canals and choked them. Just why it has taken MAN so long to discover that human numbers can be as destructive as livestock—more so by documentation—is an indictment to MAN's egotism and supposed intellectual superiority.

In the realm of the wild kingdom some species of
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animals will kill their own kind when populations become too crowded. Certainly this trait has been apparent in human behavior in parts of the world for a long, long time. For these many years now the United States has sent food to unfortunate countries. Most of them have high human populations and have neglected their land husbandry. In our own case the urge for space is becoming notable with the mass-migration of frustrated people from crowded cities to the country. Although well-fed by comparison with many other countries, we are gradually becoming contentious for want of space. Our reactions are the same as those of overcrowded animals. City people buying land on a lake or in the country are usually the ones who put up NO TRESPASS signs. Country people are far less prone to do this.

How much is enough to sustain acceptable standards of living without being discontented with our lot and running out of resources? Finding an answer to this question would take more discussion than waiting for the United Nations to agree on the Mid-East.

What is sufficient for one person is near poverty for another. Food, shelter and heat can range from turnip greens to caviar, from a house with no modern facilities to one with every gadget known to mankind. Luxuries for one person are necessities to another.

Our free enterprise system, once based on the theory that any person could go as far as their ability and the urge to succeed would take them, has now become a race for immediate creature comforts. Success rests on how much credit and how

many time payments can be promoted. Our free enterprise system is rapidly developing another dimension which makes it no longer free enterprise; and that is the welfare system where everyone will be guaranteed a minimum living. This is on the assumption that opportunities are denied part of the population.

Already the debate has gone into slight orbit as to what constitutes a minimum living standard. Living standards which some unfortunate countries would gratefully accept would be scorned by many Americans, although even we have reported areas of poverty. (When I was a boy I was raised in a region where people were poor but not poverty stricken.)

But the champions of both free enterprise and the welfare state fail to recognize that the great limiting factor of their dreams is not money. In the long run it will be raw resources—resources which only the land, well-husbanded, can supply. The needs and dreams of all must come from the same source regardless of social ideologies.

Today an endless array of labor saving devices, gadgets, new trinkets, cosmetics, poisons, precooked foods and recreational equipment continues to flood the market places and are hailed as milestones of progress. To bring the above statement into better focus: Have we become slaves to all the goods which industry invents to the point of losing our self-reliance? We should be masters of what we create and not victims of it. A true test of our cultural demands rests on controlling the products of our genius and not being buried under the waste and garbage they create.

Our genius for things material indicates a grave imbalance between maturity and adolescence. Caution and common sense fail to keep pace with technological advances, partly because of the profit motive and also because of a passion for indulgences.

The urge for material rewards is not bad in itself—but they certainly must be subordinated to the needs of health, security, personal freedoms and a mature social conscience. Highway deaths, lack of pesticide controls, air and water pollution, soil depletion and general resource abuse are proof the caution does not keep abreast of techniques.

If society lacks the intellectual maturity to cope with the problems which it creates, it will ultimately destroy itself. With each new innovation and invention which our civilization is capable of developing today we create a risk potential which is always disregarded until near disaster strikes. Belated and feeble laws are no substitute for a personal and public conscience and an ever constant sense of responsibility.

Lastly, can our resources stand the strain of increasing demands and still guarantee the good life? ●

Natural surroundings—green and clean—have a purifying effect on today's hurrying, harried citizen. Indiscriminate fouling of air, water and wilderness can pave the way to decline and ruin.



VALVES WERE CLOSED in early September at Smith Lake, near Bonifay in Holmes County, to begin impoundment of a 160-acre lake newly constructed by the Game and Fish Commission.

An existing cypress bay lake was drained and completely renovated in 1966. The new 800 foot earthen dam, complete with overflow riser, valves, etc. was completed this year at a cost of \$2,600, paid from the state's Fishing Improvement Fund.

A concrete boat launching ramp was also constructed.

A unique feature of Smith Lake is five walk-on earthen "fingers" extending into the lake for the use of bank fishermen.

By joint action of county commissions in Holmes and Washington counties, in cooperation with the Game and Fish Commission, the lake is designated a fish management area. It will be stocked with bluegill, shellcracker, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

Development of the lake was made possible through the Holmes County Development Commission, owners of the 1,000-acre tract on which Smith Lake is located.

ANOTHER EXOTIC FISH with which the Commission is experimenting is the Tucanare (pronounced "two canary"), or Peacock bass. Biologist Vernon Ogilvie, West Palm Beach, reports taking a 3-pound 14½-ounce specimen in a sample in the Pompano Beach area. His catch was interesting for a number of reasons: (1) It was the largest Peacock bass ever recorded from the United States; (2) It was one of the original spawn produced in the fall of 1964 from young adults which had been stocked as fingerlings earlier in the same year; (3) It had successfully survived three winters in the only experimental pond out of 20 which carried any Peacock bass through the winter of 1965-66; and (4) A male, it was about one pound heavier than any male largemouth bass one might expect to find in that region.

Florida's Peacock bass were imported from the Amazon River drainage in South America and are being thoroughly checked out under controlled conditions for desirability as a new game fish.

One of the things already determined; they strike lures with a fury.

ASSISTANT CHIEF of Fisheries F. G. Banks recently attended two meetings "up Nawth" as representative of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The International Association of



Photo By Jim Brantly

Much needs to be known about the colorful Peacock bass before "possible availability" to Florida anglers. Required research includes life history and compatibility with the native fresh water species before any attempts at stocking in open waters.

Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners met, with The American Fisheries Society, at Toronto, Canada and the Fifth National Conference on Access to Recreational Waters met in Boston.

At the Boston Conference, Banks discussed Florida's approach to the funding of her access programs. He pointed out that everyone is encouraged to "get into the boat ramp-building act" in Florida—private enterprise, city and county governments, the State Road Department and, of course, the Game and Fish Commission, which utilizes both State Game Funds and Federal Aid funds in its nationally-known access program, begun in 1958 under a Legislative appropriation.

THREE NEW BOAT ramps were reported "complete or almost complete" in the last few weeks. They were: (1) on the Suwannee River at Fort McComb Park in Lafayette County, (2) on the Suwannee at New Clay Landing, Levy County and (3) on Blue Cypress Lake west of Vero Beach in Indian River County. ●

Woodcock Hunting

By GENE SMITH

THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK is the silliest looking, craziest flying and least sought-after game bird in Florida. It's a pity that more hunters don't know him. Quite common in North Florida woodlands in late fall and winter, he is seldom seen—for two very good reasons. He is nocturnal in habits and so superbly camouflaged as to be almost invisible during the day.

Called "timberdoodle" in many locales, a name which derives from his unique way of feeding on the forest floor where he lives, the woodcock is dubbed *Philohela minor* in biological journals.

He is a dumpy, brown bird with almost no neck, a large head and somewhat misplaced eyes. A long bill adds to his unbalanced, oddball appearance—but it is a very special instrument. Its flexible upper tip can be partially opened to grasp a worm after the bill's full insertion into the ground—while the jaws remain closed the whole time.

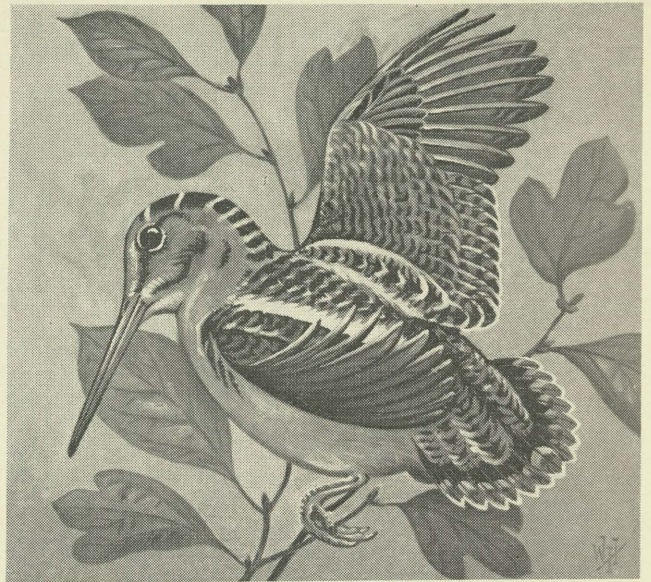
The eyes are set far back on the head so that a woodcock can see an approaching enemy while "doodling" around for food with lowered head.

He is dressed in woodsy brown with an over all dark "dead leaf" pattern. His head is barred cross-wise in dark brown and his underside is uniformly buff colored. The wings are dark, broad and rounded in flight, also powerful and startlingly noisy when he catapults into the air. (Many a squirrel hunter heading out of the woods in dusky darkness has been scared momentarily speechless by a woodcock's unceremonious explosion from under his feet).

Found in deep, moist woods and shady thickets—and occasionally in fields bordering forests—the 6-ounce woodcock provides the best snap-shooting available. His 11-inch length, 3 of which are bill, and light weight belie his supreme challenge as a game bird.

The salvation of the woodcock hunter is a good bird dog and the fact that the flight habits of his quarry are entirely predictable. He almost invariably rises vertically when flushed—for 15 or 20 feet—before corkscrewing away through the timber as if his tail were on fire, dodging limbs and trees expertly. That's why successful woodcock hunting sets the really good snap-shooter apart from all other shotgunners. His target is fast and small and his time, range and visibility are extremely limited. That's also why you dust 'em on the rise or not at all.

Woodcocks feed almost exclusively on earthworms, of which they may devour more than their own weight in 24 hours. Hunt them, therefore, only where earthworms are able to live, which rules out soils that are too wet . . . or too dry . . . or too sandy.



Don't sell this one short! Though small in size, and shy by nature, the woodcock is a grand game bird. He must be hunted on his own terms—a migratory game bird no pushover to bag.

Scientists believe that a woodcock locates his subterranean food items by an extremely keen sense of hearing and by an equally keen sense of feeling—in his feet. This is indicated by the fact that he seldom fails to get a *worm per thrust* of his talented "snoot" into the soil. (Small round holes in the woods earth are sure indicators of the woodcock's presence in the vicinity.)

A few resident woodcock nest in North Florida but most are truly migratory, delaying their southward flights until late fall when the first northern freezes force them to look for softer diggin's. Many never come farther south than is necessary to escape hard-frozen earth . . . and they return northward early in the spring on the heels of the first thaws. Hence, they normally range only into North Florida, seldom south of Orlando.

The woodcock is confused by some hunters with other long-billed migratory game birds, such as snipe and marsh hens (rails). Adding to the confusion is the fact that his name has been borrowed by some to denote the big, noisy Pileated woodpecker of Florida forests. These two birds resemble each other not at all. Never shoot woodpeckers. They're all extremely useful insect eaters and fully protected by law.

The American woodcock season opens in Florida November 11 (November 18 in the Third District) and runs through January 14. Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The daily bag limit is 5 and the possession limit is ten.

Woodcock are excellent table fare, comparing favorably with dove and quail. And if there's anything more enjoyable than hunting and eating them . . . it's telling about it. ●

wildlife conservation

day . . and . . night

EVEN FLORIDA wildlife officers get sleepy . . . but sometimes they don't get much sleep. Being on call 24 hours a day means that many nights are spent in the boondocks or on some lonesome stretch of road getting the job done. It's a way of life.

Lt. Martin H. Foxworthy, Supervisor of the 21st Enforcement District, is probably accustomed to being called in the middle of the night—like a doctor. Just the same, though, he'd enjoy uninterrupted sleep a little more often.

Here is just one instance that illustrates why wildlife officers have to roll out and go, sometimes night after night.

Foxworthy was asleep at his home in Immokalee recently when the telephone, that marvelous little slave-driver, rang insistently. It was ten 'til one in the morning. The caller had information that two men were at that moment engaged in illegal night hunting not far away. He gave a detailed description of the vehicle they were driving, the name of one of the men, and precisely where they were hunting. Their quarry? Alligators. Their motive? Money. 'Gator hides bring cash.

It was ridiculously like a TV soap opera in a way. This was to be just another episode in a never-ending story. And it was another night's sleep interrupted. Whether or not the information was "good," or a diversionary tactic . . . or possibly just a harassment call didn't affect Foxworthy's next move at all. He *had* to go and find out . . . just as he had been compelled to answer that 'phone. But he sensed that tonight's caller was on the level.

A radio call for assistance alerted Wildlife Officer Roy Raymond, of Naples, who was patrolling several miles away. Raymond, with Wildlife Officer T. E. Herne, of Copeland, at Foxworthy's suggestion, headed toward a position to block a possible escape route opposite the lieutenant's intended direction of approach. They advised that they were about 30 minutes away from the designated position.

It didn't take Foxworthy long to confirm that his information was good. Within minutes after he stopped his patrol car he heard a rifle shot and shortly caught the familiar flash of a low powered artificial light. It was 1:15 a.m. Through binoculars two forms were visible in the dim light. They were moving toward their car. The officer's plan to approach them on foot had to be canned. They pulled



onto the highway and headed away. Lt. Foxworthy fell in behind them, his headlights off.

Then the other car turned around and headed back to meet the officer, who immediately turned on his car lights and his revolving blue warning light. The driver of the other vehicle began accelerating, showing no signs of stopping to pass the time of night. Foxworthy tried to persuade him . . . even drove his patrol car into the oncoming car's traffic lane—an unmistakable gesture. But the driver veered onto the right shoulder of the highway, ran part way into the ditch and, regaining the pavement, sped away at high speed.

Foxworthy wheeled and started in pursuit, blue light still blazing. In spite of an estimated 500 yard start, he got close enough to the fleeing vehicle to see a rifle being thrown out the window on the passenger's side. It smashed into the shoulder of the road and came apart—the stock tumbling one way and the rest bouncing crazily before coming to a stop on the pavement. As he passed the shattered rifle Foxworthy made a quick mental note of the spot in relation to a handy landmark—an upcoming curve. He had plans for that rifle regardless of the number of pieces it was in.

The patrol car quickly began to overtake the nine year old Ford sedan as they got into the straightaway beyond the curve. The driver saw the picture and decided to pull over. As they did so, Foxworthy radioed this information, and the location, to the approaching Raymond and Herne. It was 1:30 a.m.—just 40 minutes after the telephone call that had sparked it all.

The officer pulled in behind the stopped car, got out and approached it on the driver's side. He identified himself as a wildlife officer and stated his business. He wanted to check the vehicle. But before anything else the lieutenant advised the pair of suspects of their Constitutional rights to silence and to an attorney. They understood.

Foxworthy found nothing in his search of the vehicle. But he noted that one of the men was wet from head to foot and the other, to the waist. Water had puddled in the floor of their car. And one was wearing wet tennis shoes. He had recorded the names of the two men, one 27 years old, the other,

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25, and the auto license tag number when the second patrol car rolled to a halt in front of the suspect vehicle. Lt. Foxworthy asked the two officers to go over the vehicle again in case he had missed something in his original search. He had not.

The suspects were then permitted to leave the scene. All three officers turned to a search of the shoulders of the road back in the direction from which the chase had been made.

Herne and Raymond came up with a headlight and 6-volt battery. Foxworthy retrieved the busted rifle, which had a round of ammunition in the chamber and six in the magazine. All the evidence was picked up carefully in order not to disturb whatever fingerprints might have been on it. Then the officers checked the area around the borrow pit where the suspects had first been seen by Foxworthy. Tennis shoes make the nicest tracks of all footwear. There were ample signs to indicate that the pair had been there and had entered the water, too. Vegetation was trampled at the edge of the pit and the water was still cloudy at the site of entry.

One alligator—about a three-footer—was “shined” in the middle of the pit by the officers. (For some reason he was very light-shy!) It didn’t appear to be injured—and no carcass was found. The shot that Foxworthy heard must have missed . . . or else they hit one and let it get away. Maybe they *thought* they hit one and went into the water after it. It didn’t matter, except to the ‘gator, maybe. A violation had occurred.

While the wildlife officers were looking for further evidence at the scene, two sheriff’s deputies came by and said they had checked the same car earlier—around midnight. It had been occupied by three men at the time. Could it be that the “third man” had been Foxworthy’s caller? Stranger things have happened. And the trio *had* lost a member between the deputies’ check at midnight and the informer’s call at 12:50. But it wasn’t an important point. Just speculation—the kind law enforcement officers often make when trying to put a pattern together in a case.

At 4:00 a.m. the wildlife officers concluded their search for additional evidence and patrolled for another 3 hours in other parts of the county. Then they headed for Immokalee.

As Foxworthy was to find out, both local judges happened to be out of town. No warrants could be

One defendant was subsequently found. He pleaded guilty as charged and received a sentence of 60 days in county jail, or 30 days confinement and a \$300 fine. He chose the latter. His driver’s license was revoked for a six month period. Second accused had not yet been located.



Photo By Gene Smith

They didn’t have a chance! These alligators were seized as evidence in north Florida, on their way to an illegal hide market. Countless ‘gators are illegally killed despite the year-round closed season. Many hides rot in the Florida sun.

issued until one of them returned, heard the facts and made the decision. One was expected back that evening. The interim was spent by Lt. Foxworthy in preparing a detailed case summary and tagging the evidence which was to support the charges he intended to file against the alleged violators. An officer at the Collier County Sheriff’s Department Sub-Station lifted latent fingerprints from the pieces of hunting gear. These could be checked against existing print records for both suspects.

All this clean-up work took until after 5:30 that evening. At about 9:00 that night Foxworthy contacted a magistrate and outlined the case, by telephone. They met at his office and went over all the details. Warrants were issued for the arrest of the pair on charges of unlawful possession of a gun and light at night for the purpose of taking wildlife—in violation of Rule 165-15.01 of the Wildlife Code of the State of Florida. Bond for each was set at \$300.

An additional charge of unlawfully fleeing and eluding an officer of the law—a violation of Florida Statute 371.0109—was leveled at the driver of the vehicle, who was well known by Lt. Foxworthy and quickly recognized as soon as the chase had ended. Bond on this charge was \$250.

It was 9:30 p.m. as the officer stepped from the judge’s office back into the warm air. Another night had come . . . and still more work remained to be done. You see, in order to serve a warrant, first you have to find your man. ●

Field Facts

HUNTING

For most effective hunting—in this age of specialization—match the gun-and-load combination to species and terrain hunted

By EDMUND McLAURIN



JUST AS THERE IS now specialization in medicine and in the trades, so, too, is there specialization in guns for hunting.

Gone is the time when a hunter usually owned one gun and made it serve for all his hunting. The 12 gauge is still the most versatile weapon that can be chosen for multiple uses, but even the 12 gauge has become subject to specialization.

While a shooter can perhaps get by on the Skeet range with the open bored or adjustable choke field piece he uses for upland game, still, he will need a trap model, with straighter stock that places his shot charge higher in relation to aim than his field model, if he goes in for serious trap shooting competition.

Any attempt to tell a hunter the exact gun models he should select for varied hunting would be like trying to choose wife and career for him; in most cases he has his own definite ideas.

But it is not amiss to mention suitable calibers and gauges for different types of hunting. Varmint hunting will be purposely skipped; the resume concerns weapons primarily intended for putting meat on the table.

For Florida deer hunting, where ranges are generally short and where shots are apt to be of rapid execution or not at all, medium range calibers like the .30-30, .32 Winchester Special and .35 Remington are fine. The .35 Remington caliber is also very good for Florida black bear. (Harder hitting calibers, of course, can also be used.)

A 12 or 16 gauge shotgun with barrel no longer than 26 inches, preferably a repeater with attached selective choke device, will take care of feathered game species and also Florida big game shot with proper shell load at reasonable shotgun range.

But for open country big game hunting, as in far Western states and some Canadian provinces, one of the "long range" calibers giving flat trajectory (an aid in nullifying small errors of hold and aim) and plenty of remaining bullet energy at target, should be chosen.

Included among popular desirables are such calibers as the .264 Winchester Magnum, .270 Winchester, .280 Remington, the 7mm and the 7mm Magnum, the .30-06, .284 Winchester and the .300 Winchester and Weatherby Magnums. All named are quite accurate ballistically and perform best

with proper bullet weight and a top quality, correctly mounted and adjusted 4X scope sight.

Some of the calibers just named are better than others, even though differences in performance may be slight. For example, the .280 Remington caliber is a better choice than the .284 because it is a longer cartridge with greater powder capacity than the .284.

A wise choice for the average hunter would be from among the 7mm class calibers—of which the .270 Winchester, .280 Remington and the 7mm caliber itself are examples of proven performance, yet of moderate recoil. Some shooters never get around to mastering the .30-06 or larger calibers, because of feared recoil. The same is true of the comparable .308, a stubby cartridge version of the .30-06.

For open country hunting, one cannot possibly make a mistake in effective caliber selection if a .270 Winchester caliber is chosen. The 130-grain, high velocity, flat shooting commercial bullet loads in that caliber are good on mountain sheep, caribou, elk and other open country game—even out to 300 and 400 yards, while the commercial 150-grain (or heavier handloaded 170-grain Speer) bullet with strong jacket performs well in brush and is a proven killer on brown bear, moose and even grizzlies.

Much the same can be said for the .280 Remington caliber; it practically duplicates the .270 ballistically and in performance. More different bullet weights are commercially loaded for the .280 than the .270.

The venerable 7mm Mauser caliber should not be discounted, either. It is powerful enough to put big game down for keeps, yet developed recoil is moderate. The Magnum version is simply a more potent 7mm package, for those who can handle this Remington-developed caliber.

At one time the .257 was a very popular open country caliber, but it has lost favor to newer calibers. However, it has not lost its qualities—accuracy at long range, killing power and mild recoil. In chamber size, it is much like the 7×57 Mauser; headspace check gauges for the two calibers are practically identical. Both Remington and Winchester still load cartridges for the .257 caliber; therefore, ammunition availability for existing .257 caliber rifles is not a problem. The .257 is a good choice

(Continued on next page)



Trophy hunter M. T. Reynolds and three of his big game kills. The prize-size ten-point buck weighed 188 pounds, and was the largest deer checked in at any Ocala Area weigh-stations last season.

(Continued from preceding page)

for a woman hunting medium size, thin skin game.

For really dangerous game—anywhere in the world—the .375 Magnum and .458 Winchester are frequent choices of experts. But both calibers develop punishing shoulder recoil. The only way to become accustomed to these bruisers is to fire them in periodic practice.

Whatever the game species hunted, there is an ideal caliber and bullet load for it. . . . It is now fashionable to specialize.

ANY HUNTER WHO hunts regularly and persistently will invariably bag game. Once in awhile he will bag a trophy.

But it is an unusual hunter who specializes in hunting only for trophies, often passing up a chance to make an average kill.

Such a hunter is M. T. Reynolds, 35, of Ft. McCoy, Florida. If three hunters, including Reynolds, tossed coins in a fountain for hunting luck, the favored one would likely be Reynolds! He knows how and where, if not always when.

Born in Bradford County, Reynolds grew up knowing good hunting. He moved to Ft. McCoy six years ago, where he is currently associated with Angus Hastings, another successful Florida Cracker-hunter.

On the walls of Hastings' grocery and general store at Ft. McCoy, Reynolds' various trophies are given prominent display. Besides numerous deer mounts, there are wild boar, large bob cat and fox trophies. Most of the deer heads sport at least eight points. During the 1966-67 season, Reynolds shot a ten-pointer, weighing 188 pounds, the largest deer checked in any of the Ocala National Forest's sys-

tem of Game Commission-managed weighing stations.

For his big game hunting, Reynolds alternates between a Winchester Model 100 autoloader of .308 caliber and a Winchester Model 94 lever-action .30-30. He prefers the .308 for reason of faster, more reliable killing performance. Bullet choice is soft-nose, fast expanding type, either 150 or 180 grains in the .308 caliber and the conventional 170 grain soft-nose in .30-30 caliber.

Metallic sight combinations are favored, especially an adjustable rear peep sight with aperture large enough for the aiming eye to find and center with front sight the instant rifle comes to shoulder. A scope is not needed as most of Reynolds' shots are under 100 yards. Reynolds feels that a peep sight located close to aiming eye and possessing a large aperture is faster of alignment and more rugged than a scope sight under the thick brush, snap shooting conditions common to the terrain he hunts.

Reynolds is a dog man; he firmly believes that in Florida's thick scrub country one's chances of getting a shot are enhanced by use of trailing dogs that tend to keep game moving.

He also believes that the successful hunter must wear camouflage clothing and "stay put" once on stand. He is not critical of hunters who like to slow stalk; he simply says that picking a good spot and patiently waiting pays off for him. Reynolds also exercises common sense hunting safety; he never shoots until he is positive of the nature of his target.

Would there were more like him!

IF YOU DON'T already have one, you should get yourself a good hunting knife of high quality steel

and capable of taking—and keeping—a sharp cutting edge. You also should have a suitable sharpening stone to keep hunting knife at peak efficiency.

Besides innumerable uses around camp, a sharp, heavy duty knife is needed to properly and expeditiously field dress game.

It should be either a sheath style with one-piece blade and handle, or one of folding-sheath type—the last simply a big, two-bladed, heavy pocket knife about five inches long when blades are closed. Either type will serve the sportsman well.

Along about the time “The Alamo” was being given wide screen projection in theatres throughout the country, big sheath knives copying the famous Jim Bowie pattern were popular choice. But users soon learned that, while Jim Bowie was historically expert with his big knife, wide blade, heavy knives could be pretty clumsy cutting tools in unskilled hands.

Hunters who have had experience skinning big game in the field know that a smaller and more practical knife is needed. They leave the oversize, machete-like knives to tenderfeet and to kids who pridefully like to purchase and conspicuously wear a “Bowie” knife.

Unless you customarily skin the heaviest of game species, you will not likely ever need a hunting knife with a blade longer than five inches; most expert skinners use knives with blades around four inches.

Whether to purchase a one-piece style sheath knife or a folding-sheath knife depends on personal preference. The folding type has the advantage of two blades—one to use exclusively for dressing out game and the other for general camp chores.

The folding-sheath knife is usually carried in a heavy leather, snap-cover case worn on belt, with the case either fully exposed or partially tucked into a back pocket. Unlike the longer one-piece style, a short folding-sheath knife in its carrying case on belt seldom causes distraction or discomfort when the wearer sits down, as he may do frequently when hunting. Neither is the folding-sheath style apt to be inadvertently jarred from its sheath and lost, like the one-piece type.

UNDENIABLY, in many of Florida's thickly wooded sections, dogs are needed to stir up game and keep it moving. In these same dense growth or juniper scrub areas, the hunter is further aided if he can take a stand on a slight elevation, that permits him to see over the tops of low-growing, intervening trees and bushes. It is understandable why tree-stands are so popular, in Florida and other states.

Depending on builder whim and ambition, stands are made in all shapes and sizes. The most simple comprise is a narrow, uncomfortable board wedged in the crotch of a tree or placed on cleats nailed on

two adjacent trees. The more elaborate ones are usually spacious, well built and fairly comfortable—if a tree-stand can ever be truly comfortable.

Platforms made from old doors and large pieces of scrap plywood are common, as are rustic types.

Whatever the form, the builders obviously expend a great deal of physical effort and time in executing individual concepts of a practical tree-stand.

They also expect the pleasure of using stands after construction. To put it mildly, many are downright chagrined to find a “stand jumper” already in a stand when arriving to occupy it of early morning or late afternoon.

The guy occupying the stand may feel entitled to priority by simple reason of being first to the spot. The owner—the fellow who went to all the expense and trouble of building the stand—feels that he is justified in politely claiming his property. If the trespasser proves non-cooperative, tempers are apt to get short!

The question arises as to just who owns a tree-stand built and left in the woods. Legal opinion was sought of a Florida higher court judge, himself a hunter.

Unofficially—because he was not in formal court session, reviewing and ruling on an actual case—the Florida jurist stated in stilted, legal language that; “the trees belong to the forest and to the landowner or public agency of legal land title, but the *materials* embodied in a tree-stand can be as personally owned as gun or knapsack.”

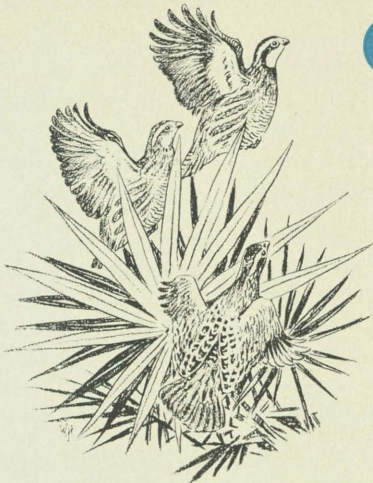
It was stated that if a hunter builds a tree-stand, then departs without leaving tangible, legal notice that the tree-stand is his personal property, combined with the admonition to “Keep Out,” then the stand is considered abandoned and subject to temporary use by anyone who comes along and takes advantage of it.

On the other hand, it was made clear that if the builder both puts permanent name identification on a constructed stand and posts a supplementary non-occupancy warning to other persons, then the stand continues to be personal property.

Thereafter, it was stated, the builder has full right to claim his property when arriving on the scene; to take the stand apart and move it to another location if he so elects, or otherwise exercise legal ownership of incorporated materials.

The moral—if any—is for all of us to take time to build our own tree-stands and not expect to benefit from another hunter's ambition, time, money and sweat.

It is much like being courteous enough to first ask hunting permission of a landowner before moving in and shooting the resident game supply. The right approach makes for better public relations in both types of contact and helps keep hunting a pleasurable sport. ●



CONSERVATION SCENE

19th century sewing machine, and relics of the extensive sugar industry during the plantation era.

Exhibits and artifacts were under the direction of the Florida State Museum in Gainesville.

St. Vincent Island, a 12,000-acre natural complex of marshes, palm-lined beaches, and sub-tropical forests off the coast of Florida's panhandle, has been approved for addition to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, in announcing the planned acquisition, said, "Federal ownership of St. Vincent will be possible through private donors' contributions of \$200,000 to the Nature Conservancy and farsighted action by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission which approved the use of Federal funds. The island is certainly one of the most valuable additions that could be made to the wildlife refuge system."

The island was purchased in 1948 by the St. Vincent Island Company, a co-partnership of Alfred L. and Henry Loomis, and their wives. The island has been maintained since as a family recreation area. The Loomis family was concerned that the land and its natural values might be destroyed if sold to private interests and agreed that the island should be sold for refuge purposes.

However, an appraisal by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife was less than the \$2.2 million asking price, and several philanthropic sources, including Laurance Rockefeller of New York, volunteered to make up the difference by donations to Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy agreed to buy St. Vincent Island and serve as a "holding company" until Federal funds become available after July 1, 1968.

The State of Florida also offered to contribute any non-Federal funds which might be needed in addition to the Nature Conservancy donation.

SOME 27,000 acres of submerged land have been added to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park at Key Largo, making it one of the largest state parks in the United States.

The State Cabinet dedicated to the Florida Park Board the waters between the park land base at Key Largo and its famous coral reef in the Atlantic Ocean.

State Parks Director Bill Miller said, "This addition connects our park into a single unit covering more than 77,000 acres."

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park is the only underwater state park in the continental United States, and encompasses the only living coral reef formation in North America. Its unique and colorful coral formations and tropical fish have won the park world acclaim.

The additional submerged land will enable the Board of Parks to provide better control of the waters between the park and the reef preserve, providing more protection of the irreplaceable natural resources as well as greater safety for park visitors.

Under the protection of the Park Board, the area cannot be tampered with by treasure hunters, curio collectors or vandals. These submarine growths are the spawning ground for rainbow-hued sea life, safe from spearfishing or poaching.

The combined land and water facilities at John Pennekamp Coral Reef have made it one of the state's most popular tourist attractions, including swimming, skin diving, boating, underwater photography and camping.

THE FINAL SECTION of the Fred Dana Marsh Museum at Tomoka State Park near Ormond Beach has been completed with exhibits and artifacts of Florida geology, zoology, and history.

The initial museum section, opened last Spring, contains art renderings by the late Florida artist, Fred Dana Marsh. These range from wood carvings, paintings and sculpture to animated toys and decorated automobile radiator caps.

Florida geology is interpreted by exhibits of sequences of winds, tides, and currents that form barrier reefs off the Florida coast. Later these barrier reefs often make salt water ways, such as those that flow through the park.

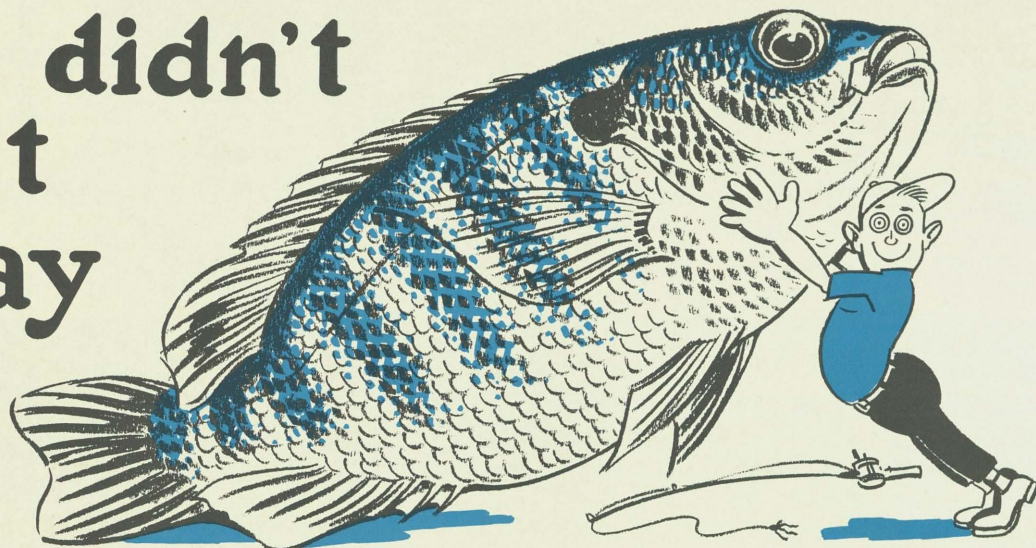
A display of birds, animals, and reptiles found in Tomoka State Park is included. Some of the snake and turtle study specimens are preserved in bottles, but realistic exhibits also are shown of plaster reptile models.

A comprehensive Indian exhibit contains artifacts from 2,000 years ago to the modern Seminole of today. An Indian dugout canoe, mortar and pestle, and woven baskets are included.

The Florida history exhibits begin with the first Spanish period 1565-1763. During the English period from 1763 to 1783, Richard Oswald received a grant of 20,000 acres of land, now encompassed by Tomoka State Park.

Some of the items to be seen are a grain cradle, spinning wheel,

For that BIG ONE that didn't get away



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date _____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip No. _____

Species _____ Weight _____ Length _____

Type of Tackle _____

Bait or Lure Used _____

Where Caught _____ in _____ County

Date Caught _____ Catch Witnessed By _____

Registered, Weighed By _____ At _____

Signature of Applicant _____

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK



White-tailed Deer

Photo By Wallace Hughes

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